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THE TIMES

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Cover-up row erupts as Iraqi arms trial folds

John Major faces angry questions about guidelines for arms exporters following the collapse of a case against an engineering company accused of breaching Iraq sanctions

By LIN JENKINS

THE Commons erupted in bitter recriminations last night after the arms-for-Iraq trial at the Old Bailey collapsed amid claims that the government secretly promoted defence-related exports to Baghdad.

John Major faced demands for an enquiry into controls on military hardware sales after the acquittal of three top executives from the Matrix Churchill tool-making firm accused of illegally exporting arms-making equipment to Iraq.

The prime minister will face angry questions in the Commons today and a demand for a judicial enquiry.

As minister and civil servants argued over who was to blame, Robin Cook, shadow trade and industry secretary called on Michael Heseltine, Board of Trade president, to make a full disclosure on the department's "complicity" in

months he said: "Only the other month, Heseltine ordered that ministerial minutes should not be released to the defence lawyers. That censorship in court did not work and the cover-up in public must stop."

Such action was necessary to restore confidence in the DTI's sanctions unit, particularly in view of the ban on arms-related exports to Serbia.

Dr David Clark, shadow defence secretary, said it was "staggering" that as British troops were being deployed in the Gulf the DTI were allowing firms to supply equipment which could be used for munitions to the enemy.

He said the enquiry should examine "the system for control of military equipment as well as to investigate the role of government ministers in the case including that of the former Tory minister Alan Clark."

Mr Henderson, 52, the company's former managing director, claimed after his acquittal that Mr Clark was "not alone" in carrying out government policy. "I don't believe it was a maverick Alan Clark. I believe that Alan Clark was implementing Government policy," he said.

Doug Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington North, said the case had "lifted the cloak of secrecy on the arms that went to Iraq."

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said he was calling on the prime minister personally to "come clean" on the issue. "It looks as though the government is engaged in under-cover activity."

"It seems odd they start a case and do not finish it, especially when it is possible that the Tory government which sent people to their deaths in the Gulf war, know about the selling of arms to Iraq."

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' defence spokesman said: "The withdrawal of charges raises more questions than it answers. What we now need is a full-scale judicial enquiry. Anything less will be a cover-up."

A spokeswoman for the DTI said last night that Mr Heseltine would "make a considered response" as soon as he had the time to consider the decision to withdraw the prosecution.

Trial reports, page 3



Henderson: "Clark was not the only one"

arms deals with Iraq in the run-up to the Gulf war.

An independent enquiry was urged after a Customs prosecution of the three businessmen accused of exporting machine tools to make shell fuses to Iraq in breach of a ban was abandoned after five weeks.

Evidence from the former trade minister Alan Clark left Customs unable to sustain their £3 million prosecution.

Mr Cook demanded to know how much the DTI knew and why it connived at arms exports. "How high did the conspiracy go? Did Mrs Thatcher know? At the DTI were changing the rules? It would be ironic if Michael Heseltine, of all people, needed to protect Mrs Thatcher from exposure," he said.

Amid uproar in the Com-



Hands of friendship: Norma Major welcoming Naina Yeltsin for lunch at the Savoy Hotel yesterday

So regal, so radiant — but so late

By BILL FROST

RADIATING confidence and good humour, Naina Yeltsina yesterday transformed last January's anxious wife into November's serene first lady. Ten months ago on her first visit to London she had looked as though she was about to undergo a particularly painful session with the dentist. She blushed and clung to her translator for dear life.

Yesterday she swanned regally into the Savoy Hotel for lunch having kept her hostess Norma Major waiting for almost half an hour. While the prime minister's wife cooled her heels and looked slightly irritable in the cloakroom Mrs Yeltsin had been enjoying a guided tour of Kensington Palace.

As the limousine drew up Mrs Major

skipped into the foyer to greet her guest. "Awful weather, how lovely you look," she said. Nodding her agreement to both propositions, Mrs Yeltsin instructed her seven-foot translator to explain the delay. "Kensington Palace was quite beautiful. They tried to shoot us out because of our programme but it was so nice, so cosy we wanted to stay longer," the man mountain intoned dolefully.

Naina, decked out in a fashionable emerald green suit with power-shoulders, adopted a graceful pose and a first lady's smile for the photographers.

Mrs Major, plainly surprised herself at the transformation, led the way to the Savoy's River Restaurant where the best table over the Thames had been reserved.

Mrs Yeltsin beamed at captains of industry and adopted a Lady Bountiful smile for the waiters.

Emerging into the drizzle from the Savoy Mrs Yeltsin flashed that first lady smile. Where was the frightened wife of somebody important who dreaded the cameras and covered in the shadow of her photogenic predecessor, Raisa Gorbachev? Gone forever, and replaced by a very fine swan indeed. "This is not the same woman we saw in January," observed a photographer. "She's stealing the show, a natural in front of the cameras. Hillary Clinton look out."

Yeltsin courts West, page 11
Leading article, page 17

Lilley warns of tighter curbs on state benefits

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

PETER Lilley, the social security secretary, warned Conservative MPs of tight curbs on state benefits last night as he sought to lower expectations in advance of Thursday's Autumn Statement.

It is understood that Mr Lilley was alarmed by speculation that he had fought off Treasury demands for sharp cuts in his £71-billion budget. It appears that several important benefits will be increased by less than the rate of inflation, possibly by as little as 1-1.5 per cent.

Pensions and child benefit will apparently rise in line with prices. However, means-tested benefits, such as income support, housing benefit, family credit and one-parent benefit are in the firing line.

Sources said that Mr Lilley was worried about the annual uprating statement to the Commons, which will follow announcements by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, about the future pattern of

public spending and a strategy for recovery.

Last night, the social security secretary began a damage limitation exercise by meeting a group of senior backbenchers. At the same time, Treasury ministers began their "charm offensive" by meetings scores of junior ministers, parliamentary aides and MPs. The scale of the operation underlined ministerial anxieties about the way their motley troops will react to a mixed economic package combining the pain of a virtual public-sector pay freeze and sharp spending cuts with the lure of interest rate cuts and industry incentives.

Last night, John Major put an end to speculation about the future of pay review bodies covering 1.3 million workers by disclosing that they would continue.

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Anthem dispute tackled to save Twickenham match

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

ONLY five days before England play South Africa at Twickenham, the National Olympic Sports Congress has handed a series of demands to the South African rugby authorities threatening that unless they are met it will withdraw support from future international tours.

The sports congress, which supports the African National Congress, wants more money given to black development programmes in the townships. Its demands include the scrapping of the springbok emblem for another symbol not regarded by blacks as racially divisive; the giving of 25 per cent of gate money to future international tours to go to developing rugby in underprivileged areas; the staging of some future international or tour matches to be held in township stadiums; and two sports congress members to serve on develop-



ment committees in each province.

Khaya Ngqula, the sports congress chairman, said: "The onus is on the South African Rugby Union to come back to us. Our position on tours still stands. The issue is pressing since they want international tours." The sports congress

will consider boycotts of provincial unions, which it sees as dragging their heels on proper development schemes for Coloured and black players.

The Rugby Football Union, which is aware of the political sensitivities of the situation, will play no national anthems at Twickenham on Saturday — the first match between the two countries in London for 23 years. It was the playing of anthems, in particular the old South African song *Die Stem*, before the game against New Zealand in Johannesburg in August, which led to a political furor.

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said last night: "We have had representations from the ANC to ensure the old South African anthem would not be played. After discussions with the South African Rugby Football Union we decided the match would not have the anthem of either country as a prelude."

Match preview, page 36

Hurd was 'not involved' in Maastricht revolt deal

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, was not consulted in advance about John Major's decision to attempt to buy off his Euro-rebels by lengthening the timetable for the Maastricht treaty ratification.

The concession, proposed to Mr Major by Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, after two Euro-sceptic ministers told him that it would help defuse the revolt, was offered by Mr Heseltine to half a dozen backbenchers as the government stared defeat in the face last Wednesday night, and may have been the decisive factor in the government's three-vote victory.

But Mr Hurd, who had to defend to his EC foreign minister colleagues yesterday the move to wait at least until May before the final Commons vote on Maastricht, was not involved in the decision to offer the olive branch and would, according to close friends, have opposed it had he been given the opportunity.

The foreign ministers last night voiced their disappointment to Mr Hurd over the delay, and at the same time told Denmark that its demands for opt-outs could not be met. Several ministers rejected the Danish shopping list out of hand.

Mr Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister, called it "unacceptable". Others criticised Mr Major's foot-dragging. "It's not what we want; it's not what we agreed," one Dutch official said. "Now the UK claims an exception for itself."

The concession represented a clear retreat from the previous line advanced by the Foreign Office and Mr Major that the bill would be pushed through in the early part of next year. Mr Major has been criticised for "hiding behind

the Danes." The foreign secretary is reported to have been irritated at the way the concession emerged, although there is no question of a row between Mr Major and Mr Hurd. Friends say that Mr Hurd would be the first to realise that any breach between him and Mr Major would be a godsend to the sceptics.

The Times has learnt that by the time Mr Hurd became aware of the concession, Mr Major was committed to it. Mr Hurd had no alternative but to go along with it, but he was not happy, friends say.

Pro-European Tory MPs were dismayed that the concession to the Eurosceptics was so great. Some ministers doubt whether it was the factor that turned defeat into victory; they argue instead that the vital handful of potential rebels who pulled back from the brink were convinced in the end that Mr Major's, and probably Mr Hurd's, future was on the line.

Mr Heseltine put the idea of the concession to Mr Major after being told by two of his right wing junior ministers, Neil Hamilton and Edward Leigh, that the way to buy off the rebels was to delay the third reading until after the second Danish referendum.

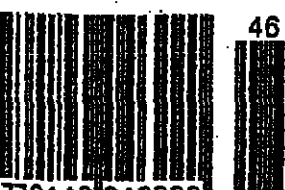
Nothing was said about the concession during the debate but it was confirmed by Mr Major last Thursday after it was disclosed by one of the would-be rebels, Michael Cartiss, MP for Great Yarmouth.

Mr Major is now coming under strong pressure from pro-European ministers and MPs to spell out the limits of the retreat. They are urging

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Win for the Glums as House experiences the Monday feeling

KILLJOYS ruled the roost yesterday: that Monday feeling seemed to fill the Commons chamber. So who better to kick off the questions to the minister of fun than Doug Hoyle (Lab, Warrington N), who looks like a municipal dog-catcher?

Mr Hoyle is short and grey with a cross face and a little pencil moustache. Other MPs polish their questions, but Mr Hoyle sandpapers his. Thumbs-down intonation and flat Lancashire accent suggest that, where other men put mustard on their beef, he prefers grinding paste. It is almost impossible to imagine him without a cap, a badge, and a sheaf of parking tickets in his hand. "Sorry, pal, more than my job's worth..."

Yet it seemed so unkind to be churlish just when the hon Peter Brooke, fun minister extraordinaire, was bubbling away in his most genial manner, auditioning, as it seemed, for the role of a thin but cheery Father Christmas at Selfridges next month.

Mr Brooke wants to organise a lottery. What, he implied, could be jollier? We would all buy tickets, many of us would win super prizes, and the remaining funds would be given to marvellously deserving causes in charity and the arts. Perhaps

just a smidgin might find its way to HM Treasury too, but we were not to make too much of that. The season of goodwill was, after all, on its way.

Goodwill be damned, thought Doug Hoyle, as he rose on question one. Did the minister realise, he asked, that only 15 per cent of the takings from his proposed national lottery would go on charitable causes? "Eighty-five per cent will be for taxes, administration..." (here his voice dropped in distaste) "...and prizes."

Horror! Prizes? What a frivolous way to disburse any part of a lottery's takings. What, after all, do people buy

lottery tickets for? Not, surely, for prizes?

Indeed not. Killjoy number two, Toby Jessel (C, Twickenham) explained. If the told Brooke this lottery was to prove the success it ought, people "must want to buy tickets" (we followed Mr Jessel's argument thus far) "so they must feel that it will go to charity."

Hold on, Toby, we thought, can this be right? Take note,

then, vendors of fruit-machines: a notice by the handle, "What you put in this machine goes to charity," should boost takings.

To restore jollity, junior minister Robert Key's your man. Shaped like a big, bouncy rugby ball, the pointed ends at his head and feet, Key is a source of inexhaustible enthusiasm, and speaks like a cheer-up Pathe News reporter during the darkest

hours of the war.

Killjoy number four, Labour's Hugh Bayley (York), had a whine at Key concerning the music in pubs. Bayley didn't like it. But Key could hardly wait to leap to his feet. There was "so much to be encouraged about" he bubbled. He and his department were into all sorts of wonderful things: "Jazz, reggae," (which he pronounced reggy) why, "my daughter is taking up the saxophone," he observed, brightly, to Labour spokesman Tom Pendry.

To Killjoy number five, Giles Brandreth (C, Chester City) who had a whinge about falling numbers of readers in

our libraries. Key seemed saddened at the suggestion of some kind of a link between libraries and books.

The modern library was so much more than a "resource centre", where you could borrow a great many more things than books", Key named just a few: "sound and video, a line-centre for computers."

In Mr Key's description, the library emerged as a positive cornucopia of desirables you could borrow. He stopped just short of suggesting we go down there for a cup of sugar or a bowl of tea. All too soon the fun was over. "Time up," said Mad-

am Speaker. We moved to the Leader of the House, Tony Newton, who was questioned by John Greenway (C, Ryedale) about proposals that MPs have Commons TV in their rooms.

The competent but low-key Mr Newton had been under attack from the Tory Right over the weekend. Normally circumspect, Mr Newton decided this was the time to hit the headlines with a TONY LASHES OUT reply.

"The desirability of conclusions on the sort of proposals which my hon friend has in mind," stormed Newton, "is something of which we are all very well aware."

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

Union ballot could lead to crippling Ford strike

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 25,000 Ford workers are to be balloted on industrial action after the company threatened to impose compulsory redundancies for the first time in almost 30 years.

A vote for strike would throw Britain's biggest car company into its worst industrial relations crisis since a national strike four years ago closed production plants for two weeks. However, union leaders admitted last night that they were reluctant to call workers out while Ford faced the most difficult trading conditions in its history.

Unions yesterday faced the stark choice of compulsory redundancies or a freeze on the 5 per cent wage increase due to be paid this month so that Ford could make big cuts in costs. However, the firm withdrew the pay freeze plan and is ready to opt for compulsory redundancies to achieve a cut of almost 1,500 in the workforce at its three main production plants at Dagenham, Essex, Bridgend, South Wales, and Halewood, Merseyside.

Ford, which has cut the workforce from more than 80,000 in 1980 to 39,500, said not enough volunteers had come forward to fill the redundancy programme. With the new cuts, the workforce could be down to 34,900 by the end of the year.

But unions resisted the pay freeze, compulsory redundancies and a demand for a 40 per cent cut in lay-off pay until 1994. Workers at Dagenham, Halewood and the Southampton Transit van-making plant have been on short-time work-

Mills vows to fight Bar over rights of barristers

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

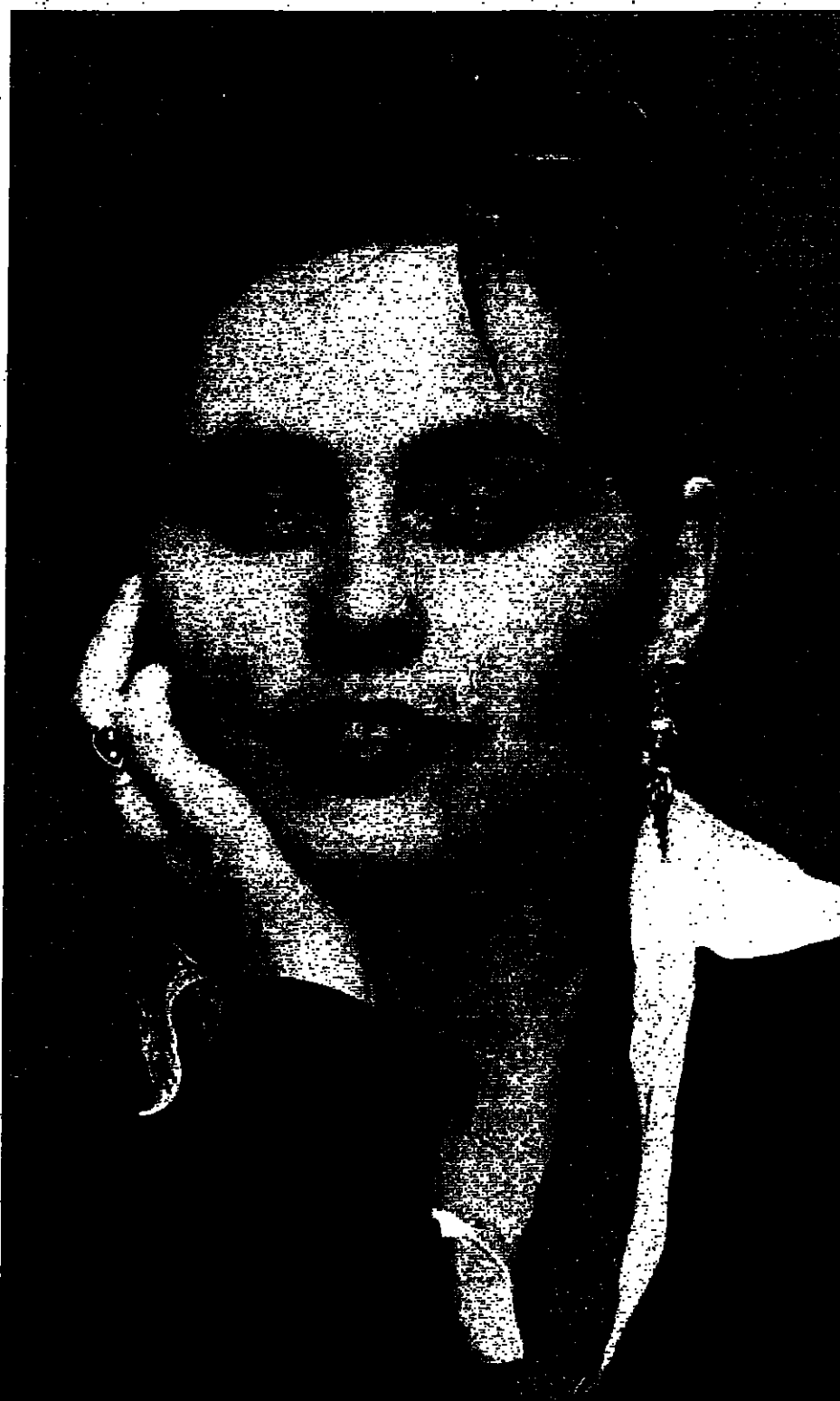
BARBARA Mills QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, yesterday signalled her determination to win the battle for wider advocacy rights for crown prosecutors despite the Bar's decision at the weekend to block the Crown Prosecution Service every inch of the way.

In a robust response to the latest move in the long-running dispute over crown court advocacy rights, the DPP said that the CPS and the Government Legal Service would not be deflected from their "goal of further limited rights of audience".

At the weekend the Bar announced it was rejecting a request by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and four most senior judges to amend its ban on barristers who work in government, commerce and industry, from appearing in the crown court.

Lord Mackay and the judges recently suggested that the Bar put a time limit on this ban, contained in a rule restricting the advocacy rights of the 6,000 barristers who were employed rather than in private practice. The judges refused to grant permanent approval to the rule.

But in a significant worsening of the dispute, a majority of the Bar council on Saturday declined to take any action over its rule. It also called on the CPS and Government Legal Service to withdraw its challenge to the Bar prohibition. Lord Mackay and the judges are now forced into either letting the rule stand, which opens the way to litigation against the Bar by employed barristers, or deeming it invalid, which might possibly wipe out the limited advocacy rights employed barristers already have.



All the world's a stage: Tara Fitzgerald, who is starring in the West End with Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play *Our Song*, was attacked and robbed by a man wielding a knife on her way to the Apollo Theatre and missed Saturday's matinee

St Paul's staff ask bishop to settle row

Former virgers at St Paul's cathedral, who this month shed their cassocks to man the cash registers and take on the uniform of the tourist guide, are calling on the Bishop of London, the Right Rev David Hope, to intervene. St Paul's previously had 15 men and three women virgers. All were asked to resign and reapply for their jobs and the cathedral now has eight virgers, 12 stewards and two senior stewards.

Some stewards have written a letter to Dr Hope, calling on him to exercise his power in the fullest capacity and urging him to carry out a visitation, an episcopal enquiry dating from medieval times.

The aim of the reorganisation is to streamline St Paul's and bring it more in line with the way other cathedrals are managed. Some stewards are upset because they no longer wear cassocks and are not consulted by tourists for advice as they once were. Stewards are paid £12,000 a year and work 35 hours a week.

Mugger gets five years

A mugger who attacked three elderly people has been jailed for five years. Michael Watson, 28, of Walworth, south London, faced four charges of robbing but his plea was accepted on only one count. Inner London Crown Court was told that Watson had attacked Colin Connolly, 66, and his wife Kate, 64, on the stairway of their flat in Walworth in April. A month later Mr Connolly saw Watson "obviously looking for another victim". He called police but they arrived too late to stop him mugging Rose McDevitt, 60.

Attack on star denied

Mickey Thomas, the former Welsh soccer international, was stabbed with a screwdriver and hit with a hammer as he had sex in his car with Erica Dean, the wife of one of his attackers. Prestatyn Magistrates' Court, in Cwyd, was told yesterday. Geoffrey Dean, 32, Thomas's ex-brother-in-law, and Mark Gorevan, 26, both of Rhyl, Cwyd, denied jointly inflicting grievous bodily harm on Mr Thomas. Mrs Dean, 29, also denied the charge. Dean, Gorevan, and Mrs Dean were committed for trial to Mold Crown Court, Cwyd.

£789,000 hospital fall

A publican who suffered massive brain injuries when he fell and broke his skull in hospital was awarded agreed damages of £789,000 yesterday. Richard Earl, now 45, should have been under care and supervision in the hospital at Devizes, Wiltshire, where he was taken for observation after complaining of dizziness in 1979. The High Court in Winchester was told that he is now a patient in a nursing home. Damages were agreed between lawyers acting for Mr Earl and Wiltshire Area Health Authority.

ITN renews the news

ITN last night introduced the biggest changes to *News at Ten* in the programme's 25-year history. Trevor McDonald (right) has become the programme's main presenter. Julia Somerville introduces "Focus on Britain", a new section run twice-weekly, while Alastair Stewart sub-anchors on location from hot spots at home and abroad. There's a new opening sequence but the famous "bongs" remain.



Murder case deadline

Detectives seeking the man who killed the 11-year-old schoolgirl Lesley Molseed 17 years ago have been given permission to extend their interrogation of a man detained last week. In a brief closed hearing yesterday magistrates at Bradford, West Yorkshire, gave Det Chief Insp Bernard Browne until 3pm today to either charge or release the suspect. The unidentified man, who was arrested as he left Arnsley Prison, Leeds, at the end of a sentence, has denied all allegations put to him.

Major's concession puts Hurd on spot

Continued from page 1

him to risk the anger of the Eurosceptics by making it plain that if the Danish referendum is delayed beyond next May, the government will press ahead with the Maastricht third reading that month.

Mr Hurd said before entering yesterday's meeting in Brussels that he would explain to his colleagues that "A treaty which is somewhat delayed is better than no treaty."

He was not attacked with the ferocity some governments had predicted and relished because his fellow ministers appeared to realise the difficulties of his personal position. Others showed "understandable concern, but no anger," according to one official.

Britain's EC partners are still bewildered by the exact meaning of Mr Major's statement to the Commons last week. But most fear the worst:

that ratification in Britain will not end until after a second Danish referendum.

Ten governments believe that the EC majority would be in a stronger position to negotiate with Denmark if all 11 of its partners had ratified the treaty and that Britain's new delay strengthens the Danish hand in the coming rows over whether or not the treaty should be rewritten. The Danes rejected the treaty in last June's referendum.

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Boys turn the tables on girls in latest A-level examinations

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BOYS are turning the tables on girls at A level, in spite of lagging behind in GCSE performance, the official analysis of this year's public examination results will show next week.

As well as winning higher average grades overall, male candidates were much more likely to achieve the maximum points score used for university entrance. One in eight boys had the equivalent of three A grades, compared with one in 11 girls.

The figures will be released with the government's first published breakdown of all schools' GCSE and A-level results. Girls' superiority in GCSE examinations has already brought calls for the reform of syllabuses to reduce the credit coursework.

Girls amassed 11 per cent more top GCSE passes than boys, and 42 per cent achieved five passes at grades A-C, compared with only 34 per cent of boys. The gap has been widening steadily in recent years, especially in English.

The new figures show that the trend is reversed in the sixth form, however. Although the sexes were evenly represented in the numbers obtaining fewer than five points (below the equivalent of three bare passes), more girls than boys appeared in all the other low-scoring categories.

Richard Mawditt, whose Bath University research group has analysed the results for the government, said: "It is too early to comment on this year's results, but it has been established that boys catch up at A level, partly because more of the less able candidates have dropped out of education. It is also possible that the science subjects which boys

Girls may shine in GCSEs, but the first full examination analysis will show boys ahead at A level

favour award more top grades."

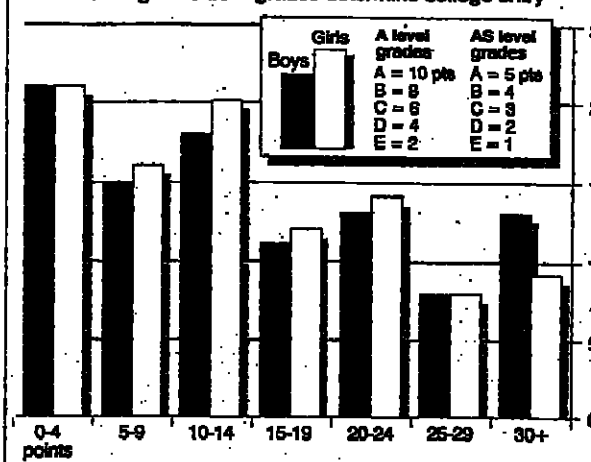
Last year, almost 60 per cent of girls stayed on at school or further education college to take A level, compared with 52 per cent of boys. Almost 3 per cent more boys than girls achieved the 30-point maximum at state schools.

In physics, fewer than 10 per cent of girls were awarded A grades, compared with more than 14 per cent of boys. Even in English, which was taken by far more girls, the boys' pass rate was superior.

Professor Desmond Nuttall, of the London Institute of Education, said: "There has not been the same systematic research done on A level, but the likelihood is that the differences are due to examining techniques and rates of maturity. A level has a lot less

A-LEVEL RESULTS: THE GENDER DIVIDE

Points gained from grades determine college entry



Case dismissed after former minister gives 'inconsistent' evidence

Three acquitted of selling arms-making equipment to Iraq

BY LIN JENKINS AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THREE former executives of Matrix Churchill accused of illegally exporting arms-making equipment to Iraq were acquitted yesterday after the prosecution case collapsed at the Central Criminal Court.

Paul Henderson, Trevor Abraham and Peter Allen, of the Coventry machine tools firm, said the government knew they were doing business with Saddam Hussein. They had been accused of deliberately deceiving officials by claiming the machine tools had peaceful purposes when they were in fact designed to make shell fuses.

Mr Henderson, who risked his life as an unpaid agent for M16 passing on details of the Iraqi arms procurement network, is to consider taking civil action against HM Customs and Excise, which brought the case. Alan Moses QC, for the prosecution, said that, after evidence from the former trade minister Alan Clark, which was "not consistent" with earlier statements, the prosecution and the Commissioner of Customs and Excise conceded the evidence no longer sustained the charges.

Lawyers estimate the Customs investigation and four-week trial have cost the taxpayer £3 million. Mr Henderson, 52, of Coventry, the firm's former managing director, Mr Allen, 46, of Leicester, the former marketing director, and Mr Abraham, 45, of Coventry, the former commercial manager, had denied exporting and attempting to

export prohibited goods to Iraq between 1988 and 1990. All three were awarded costs. Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Mr Henderson, said the case was brought upon him by "one hand of government not knowing what the other hand was doing".

Mr Clark, whose subsequent appointment to the defence ministry ensured his continued association with export licences, made it clear the decision to grant licences to Matrix Churchill had been political.

The court had been privy to the workings of government and conflicts of vested interests between civil servants and ministers in different departments. The role of the security services, with M16 dispersing information from Mr Henderson, went full circle with the Foreign Office wanting to refuse licences on grounds of a secret briefing originating from Mr Henderson.

The case was the first time officers from both M15 and M16 had given evidence at a trial concerning anything other than official secrets. The M16 officer described Mr Henderson as "extremely brave" in taking risks to supply information on a regime where the worst treatment was reserved for spies, saboteurs and foreign agents.

That such detail was disclosed and the contents of government minutes rendered admissible as evidence owed much, according to defence lawyers, to the recent rulings

where the prosecution was found not to have disclosed all evidence.

Those disclosures proved an embarrassment to the government and the prosecution case. Minutes of a meeting told of Mr Clark's anger at discovering from William Waldegrave, then at the Foreign Office, that Matrix Churchill was being monitored by intelligence. It was at that meeting that Mr Waldegrave was overruled on the granting of the export licences and insisted that the DTI and defence ministry deal with any queries on the subject from press or parliament.

Mr Clark produced a complex argument to justify his claim that telling machine-tool makers to emphasise the civilian use of their machines and accompany applications for licences with profuse paperwork did not amount to advice. There were baffled looks from the jury when the discussion lapsed into Latin.

Mr Clark's main point was that the guidelines were that and no more. He considered them "tresorous and intrusive" to British exports and indicated a ban only on weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear, ballistic and chemical. He believed the West's interests were best served by Iran and Iraq fighting each other, "the longer the better". It was up to "boffins" at the DTI to decide, knowing the specification of the machine tools, whether they were within the guidelines.



Celebrating: Paul Henderson, centre, with Peter Allen, left, Trevor Abraham and their wives after the acquittal yesterday

Fiasco 'leaves machine-tool industry in ruins'

BY LIN JENKINS
MICHAEL EVANS AND
STEWART TENDLER

■ Four ministers were denied the chance to hide embarrassing papers which helped clear Matrix Churchill. The case leaves arms-related export policy in disarray

AS THE Matrix Churchill trial collapsed, Paul Henderson, former managing director and M16 informant, accused the government of duplicity in secretly promoting defence-related exports to Iraq in the run-up to the Gulf war.

Mr Henderson claimed that the government undermined democracy by refusing to explain or defend its policies and that failing to stop the prosecution left the machine-tool industry in ruins.

Customs and Excise is reviewing the final case, which is unlikely to proceed, against Keith Bailey, chairman of BSA Tools and of the parent company which bought the remnants of Matrix Churchill last year. Last night a customs spokesman said: "We have had our suspicions and our fiascos and this is one of them."

A statement issued by Mr Henderson's solicitors said that documents originally withheld in the national interest supported Mr Henderson's case that he and a colleague kept the intelligence services informed of the consequences of a policy to help Iraq set up a munitions industry. Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, Tristan Garel-Jones, minister at the Foreign Office, and Malcolm Rifkind, defence secretary, signed immunity certificates that the national interest would be imperilled if documents relating to policy towards Iraq in 1987-1990 were disclosed. Judge Smedley ruled otherwise.

The defence said that it regretted its full case had not been heard, claiming that the cabinet endorsed the export policy on 19 July 1990, a fortnight before the invasion of Kuwait, in the knowledge of Iraq's procurement activities in Britain.

Customs blames the failure of the case on the evidence of Alan Clark, former trade minister. However, what he told the court raises questions about how far guidelines are to be interpreted, who else was

implicated in so doing and why Customs should see fit to prosecute.

Prosecutions against Ordeek in June for conspiring to export detonation fuses for heavy artillery shells and against two executives of Euromac London, imprisoned for conspiring to supply capacitors which could be used for nuclear triggers, were successful. However, both exposed the incompetence of a system which could be interpreted in different ways.

Other cases were never brought. Those involved in supplying steel tubes for Saddam's supergun were not prosecuted. Both Sheffield Forgemaster and Walter Somers of West Bromwich were duped into believing that the order was for a petrochemical plant. Britain had a paral-

lel interest in monitoring the export of parts to see if Iraq was progressing in nuclear, ballistic and chemical weapons. Such an argument has been used in the debate over all arms-related sales to Iraq. Although not viewed as a friend, it was considered less of an enemy than Iran and, in Mr Clark's words, "a good customer".

Matrix Churchill was the only one of the 17 firms encouraged to exhibit at the 1989 Baghdad arms fair to be charged with evading the controls. The company had been taken over by the Iraqis in 1987 with the consent of the government and Dr Fadel Jawad Kadhum, a known Iraqi intelligence agent, was appointed to the board.

Minister knew that the company was supplying computer

numerically controlled lathes for making fuses for long-range shells. The trade department granted export licences for the machines, which were capable of a role in civilian manufacturing. Whether they remained within the guidelines drawn up by Sir Geoffrey Howe, then foreign secretary, in 1984, remains disputed within Whitehall.

Documents from Congress show that the Bush administration also authorised arms-related exports from an affiliated company in the United States. Enquiries based on the American blacklist of British and other European companies circulated to coalition governments earlier this year has failed to uncover any widespread conspiracy.

Indeed, the customs investigation led to many fruitless

enquiries. Some of the 33 British firms named did not exist. Some were dummies for US firms. Others were not, as Washington claimed, fronts for Saddam's arms-import programme.

However, there is serious concern in industry and among MPs that restrictions on the sale of equipment with possible military application to such countries as Iraq have been inadequately enforced.

The area of most concern is the approved sale of machine tools. They may be sold legitimately for use in a civilian factory yet end up in a military complex, precision-machining steel casings for shells or missiles.

An industry source said: "You ask M16 and they will tell you they have found British machines in munitions plants in Iraq, trotting out missile fins. But that's the responsibility of the DTI. It's not up to us to go chasing around the world checking on whether machine-tooling equipment ends up in the wrong place."

Man in the eye of this desert storm

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Alan Clark's last acts as a trade minister in 1989 was to persuade the then prime minister Margaret Thatcher to sanction the sale of 160 Hawk jets to Iraq.

Whereas most ministers would cringe to see such facts become public when there was an arms embargo, the Hon Alan Clark enjoys provoking outrage. So often he appears to treat life — and politics — as one huge joke.

His open disdain for the arms embargo during the Iran-Iraq war is part of the mythology he left behind at Westminster. There was his suggestion that immigrants be returned to "bongo bongo land"; that the Buckingham Palace establishment "set we know is dominated by homosexuals"; and his "bag conspiracy". He does not eat meat, bans hunting on his land — of which he owns a lot — and prefers Russians to Americans.

On occasion he later apologises for his words, such as his description of his former boss Tom King as "indiscreet, blustering, bullying, stupid". For such an intelligent man, he seems unaware of the personal hurt he causes.

Money provides him with



Alan Clark: showed open disdain for the arms embargo

the freedom to say what he likes without giving a damn. The son of the historian Lord (Kenneth) Clark, he came into politics as MP for the marginal seat of Plymouth Sutton, appalled by Harold Wilson's brand of socialism.

Although "class" has become something of a dirty word on the Tory benches, Alan Clark is unashamed of his credentials and, as one of the most right-wing and outspoken MPs, forged an unlikely friendship with Mrs Thatcher.

Friends say he showed some regret at relinquishing his seat at the last election, but assumed he would be sent to the

Lords. His air of contempt won him no friends on the Commons trade and industry committee when he was questioned on the Iraqi supergun affair in February. As in court, he delighted in verbal sparring, arguing about the word *demarché* and confirming that he was former chairman of the Anglo-Iraqi joint commission.

Asked about the so-called Savoy mafia, alluding to links between British businessmen and Middle East arms deals, he retorted: "The only people I have ever entertained in the Savoy dining room have been favours."

West 'well served' by Iran and Iraq at war

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE twin focuses of British and American policy towards the arming of Iraq lay in the identification of Iran as "the enemy" and the channelling of money to both British and American firms supplying Baghdad through the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) branch in Atlanta.

American documents produced by the House Banking Committee show that money for Matrix Churchill was channelled through BNL as well as cash for numerous front companies in the US and Europe dealing with the Baghdad government.

Matching the American administration's "tilt towards Iraq" was a British policy outlined by Mr Clark during the case at the Old Bailey. Describing formal restrictions as "tresorous and intrusive" at a time when he was trying to maximise exports, the minister agreed that he had told a journalist: "Iran was the enemy and still is. The interests of the West are well served by Iran and Iraq fighting each other."

A Banking Committee

source, asked if there had been British-American co-operation on the nourishment of Saddam's regime, confirmed yesterday: "We decided to have a policy of arming Iraq."

Apart from the provision of special steel for Saddam's supergun by British companies, the Americans issued at least 200 licences for arms-related or dual-use exports. In January 1988 the British government allowed the export of machine tools to Iraq well knowing that they would be used in the munitions industry. In April 1989 Matrix Churchill was trumpeting its participation in an arms trade fair in Baghdad, used to secure a contract for the establishment of a factory for the "emerging Iraqi automotive industry".

A memo from the State Department to the White House in 1989 warned that Baghdad was working on chemical and biological weapons. In June that year the Defence Intelligence Agency warned that the Iraqis had developed a European military procurement network.

THE TIMES
DILLONS EUROPEAN FORUM

A forum in which Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor, and Tom Peters, the management guru, speak on vital European issues. Chaired by Brian Redhead, it will take place at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1 on November 18 at 7.30pm.

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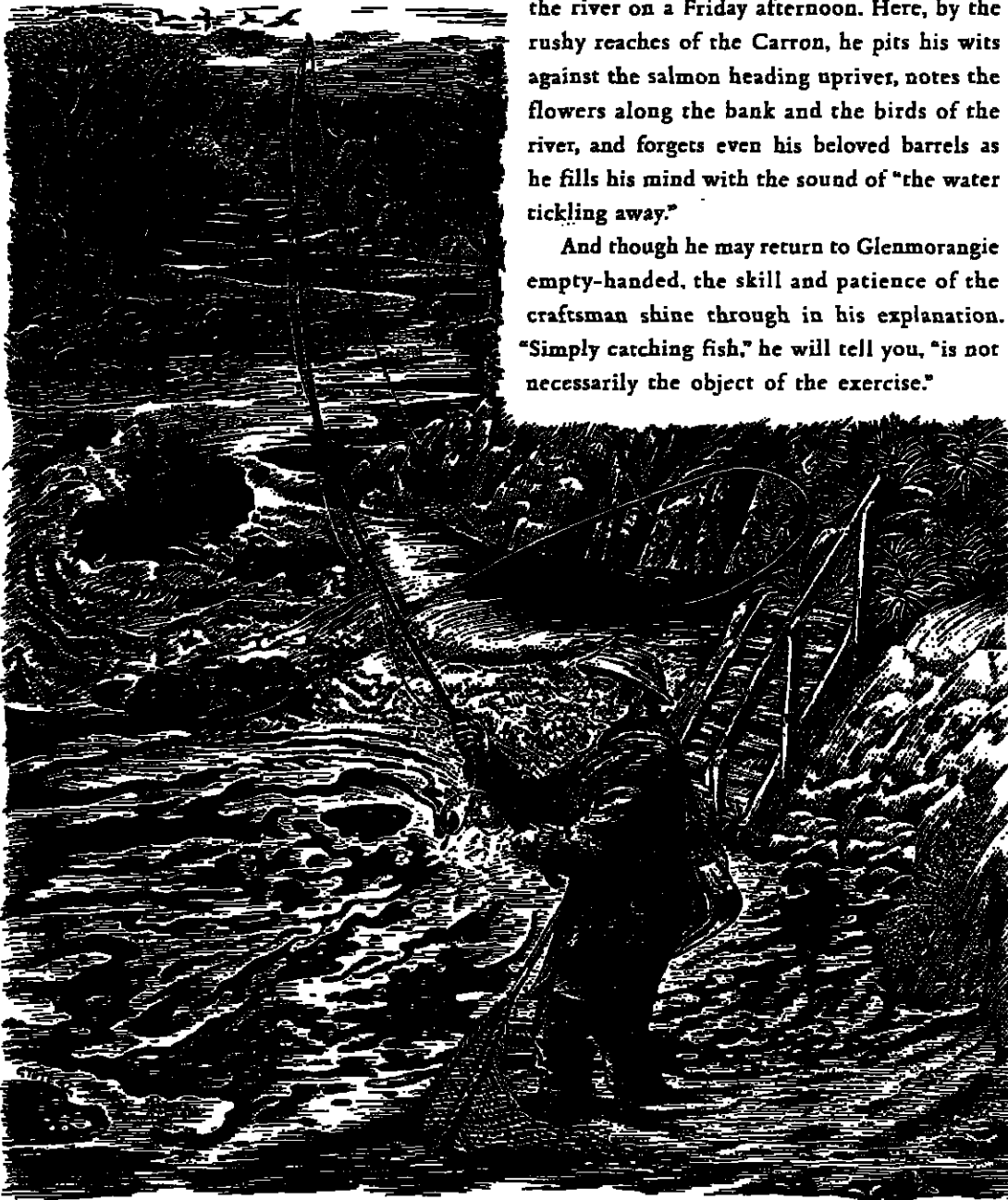
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JOHNNY URQUHART, Head Cooper.

HAVING TOILED ALL WEEK — and sometimes all weekend — upon the oaken casks which impart the buttery translucence and flowery nose to the malt, our Head Cooper heads for the river on a Friday afternoon. Here, by the rushy reaches of the Carron, he pits his wits against the salmon heading upriver, notes the flowers along the bank and the birds of the river, and forgets even his beloved barrels as he fills his mind with the sound of "the water tickling away."

And though he may return to Glenmorangie empty-handed, the skill and patience of the craftsman shine through in his explanation. "Simply catching fish," he will tell you, "is not necessarily the object of the exercise."



HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

مكتبة الأصيل

Traffickers warned they risk death

Woman killed by drug smuggling accident

By Peter Victor

A WOMAN carrying what is believed to be cocaine in more than 100 poorly bound packets in her stomach died of a drug overdose while attempting to bring them into Britain. Lily Ehrobo, 38, a mother-of-three from Nigeria, was taken to Ashford Hospital, Surrey, and died on Sunday night in St Peter's Hospital, Woking, after she became ill on a flight from Brussels to Heathrow Airport, London.

Ms Ehrobo was taken to hospital in customs custody after she arrived on Sabena Airlines flight SN 6010. In all, 111 packages of the substance were removed from her stomach. Customs officials said they were poorly wrapped in single condoms bound in what is thought to have been sticky tape.

The value of the drugs removed from Ms Ehrobo's stomach was being estimated yesterday by customs at between £40,000 and £50,000. Each of the packages weighed four to five grams. In total the

packages weighed about 500 grams or one pound.

Ms Ehrobo was the third person to die while attempting to smuggle cocaine into Britain in the past four weeks, customs officers say. Two other people, described as "swallowers", are seriously ill, including a British man, aged 23, who is recovering in East Surrey Hospital after surgery to remove 20 bags of cocaine from his intestines. He was arrested on Thursday in a separate incident at Gatwick.

In one of the cases, in which a woman died, the drugs were simply bound in transparent wrapping material and masking tape. David Chesters, an assistant collector with the customs office, said: "Dying of a massive cocaine overdose is not pleasant. She would have gone into a coma."

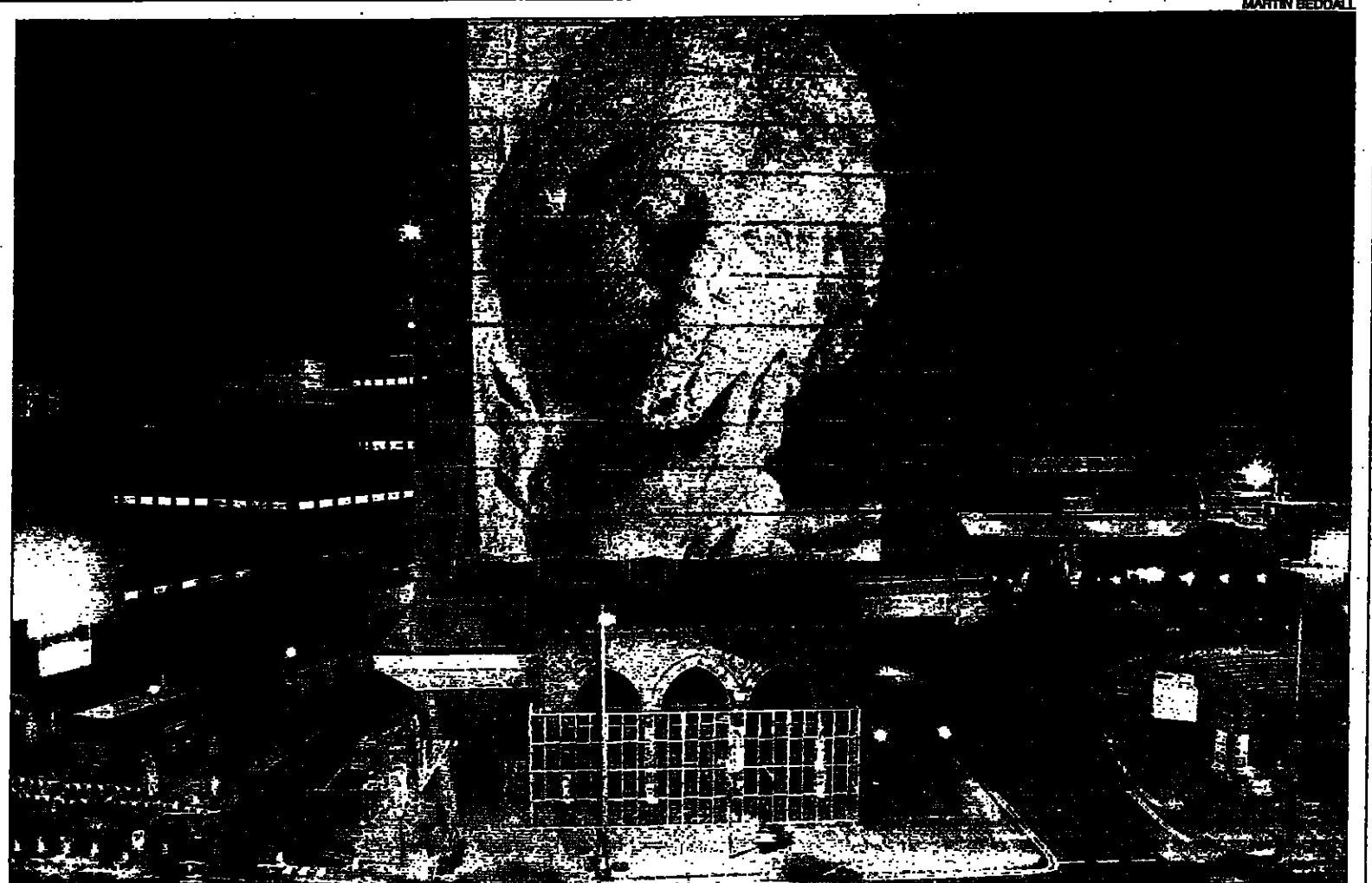
"Drug smuggling is an evil business manipulated by evil people," he said. "Those who attempt to smuggle drugs risk their liberty but those who attempt to smuggle them in-

ternally risk more than that, their lives."

Customs officers are trying to establish Ms Ehrobo's route to Brussels and a post-mortem examination will be held. Scientists will examine the drugs and their packaging.

Foreign drug traffickers convicted in the British courts should have their assets seized, be deported and barred from returning rather than cost the country millions of pounds in pointless imprisonment, Sir John Wheeler, chairman of the parliamentary all-party penal affairs group, said in a statement (Stewart Tendler writes).

Sir John said the evidence showed that couriers were often naive people ignorant of the British legal system who were exploited with a brutal cynicism. Those caught were rapidly replaced by a "sadly vast pool of those desperate to feed, clothe and house their families and escape the clutches of loan sharks".



Festival of light: St Pancras station is one of London's unlikely art venues this week with an exhibition of North European Art projected on to its facade every evening by Camden council. "On track: Lillian and the Angels" is by artists Anne Bean and Peter Fink

Estate agents face rise in complaints

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

COMPLAINTS about estate agents rose by more than 50 per cent during last year, according to the second annual report from the Ombudsman for corporate estate agents.

There were 1,864 enquiries from the public last year about large claims, such as Halifax Estate Agencies and TSB Property Services, which represent 40 per cent of sales in the country, compared with 1,236 the year before. The number of complaints should be seen in the context of the 315,000 sales successfully completed by such agents, David Quayle, the Ombudsman, said.

The increase was partly because the complaints scheme had become better known, and reflected problems experienced when buying repossessed properties, the Ombudsman said. The recession had meant that buyers were keener on pursuing complaints to try to recover their money.

Disappointed buyers complained when they lost what they believed to be a bargain when a last-minute rival bid was made, often by a developer paying cash. Buyers were especially incensed if they had already spent money on professional fees. Ten per cent of all complaints were about repossessed property.

Mr Quayle said such househunters were mistaken in complaining about estate agents to the Ombudsman. "Failed purchasers almost always misdirect their anger at the estate agent. They must understand that the lender has a legal duty to obtain the

best price possible for each repossessed property sold — and there is no guarantee of success until contracts are exchanged."

The Ombudsman ruled against agencies in 63 of the cases that he had formally decided to investigate, and for them in 53 cases; 85 per cent of the cases awarded against agencies were for less than £1,000, and most involved maladministration or misunderstanding, rather than malpractice, which occurred in only four cases.

The worst single case of malpractice involved an agent who untruthfully told the owner of a house on the market, with whom he had no formal relationship, that his client would not be able to afford to buy it. This was because the client would have no chance of selling his own house, the agent explained, though this was not true. The house was then sold to a new buyer and the agent's client missed out. The agent was fined £4,000 for misleading a third party, and thereby ruining his client's chances of buying what he had described as his dream property.

The Ombudsman recommended that agents should make clear what are undisputed matters of fact in their description of property, and what are facts that will require verification at a later date.

The 1991 Property Misdescriptions Act includes an amendment that will stiffen the law in this area and is expected shortly, and the Ombudsman will be watching closely to see that the act is fully implemented.

Cause of Spiro death unknown

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

AMERICAN police have not yet indicated whether Ian Spiro, the British businessman suspected of murdering his family and whose body was found on Sunday, committed suicide or was murdered.

The body of Mr Spiro, 46, a former international commodity broker, was found slumped in the driver's seat of his 1992 white Ford Explorer jeep by hikers in the Anza-Borrego desert northeast of San Diego, California.

John Tenwolde, heading the murder investigation, said the car had been locked and the keys left in the ignition. Mr Spiro's body, which was discovered after a three-day manhunt, was found some 150 miles from the house in Rancho Santa Fe where his wife, Gail, and their three children were found shot dead last week. He said the body showed no signs of "trauma".

Police were unable to confirm whether a firearm had also been found. A team of pathologists was working to establish the cause of death.

Mr Tenwolde refused to comment on reports that Mr Spiro — who was involved in Terry Waite's mission to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon — and his family may have been the victims of a retaliatory attack by an Arab hit squad.

Elton John forms Aids foundation

ELTON John, who has given £500,000 to Aids charities in Britain over the past three years, is setting up his own Aids charity named after himself because he wants a bigger say in how the money is spent.

The 45-year-old pop star announced in London yesterday that he will be a director of the newly formed Elton John Aids Foundation, a registered charity with bases in Britain and America.

"This is a terrible disease. I have lost many friends and know of many people who are either HIV-positive or have full-blown Aids — not only men but also women and children," he said.

"I want to do whatever I can to help the fight against this disease."

Mr John made the announcement to a small group of French and German journalists who expected only to hear that he was giving royalties from his single sales to their countries' Aids charities.

The foundation is being set up specifically to sponsor research into the causes and transmission of Aids. It will be funded by royalties from his singles, by money raised at charity events and from corporate donations.

A key participant in Aids charity concerts in the past, Mr John intends to organise two or three fundraising events each year and may begin with a charity event in Australia next spring.

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Stolen Renoir is recovered after round-the-world trip

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET
CORRESPONDENT

A RENOIR painting stolen from the window of a London gallery in an audacious raid five years ago is back in the country after an adventure that took it to Israel, Switzerland and Japan.

Now the Merrett Group, the fine art insurers at Lloyd's of London who compensated the Wildenstein Gallery for their £450,000 loss, are trying to sell the painting, *A Vase of Flowers*, back to the gallery.

However, in the light of a fall in values for Impressionist works, there may be a problem agreeing a price. There is also, according to Nigel Blacklock, Merrett's solicitor, an outside chance that a claimant could emerge from the woodwork. "There might be somebody somewhere who is unhappy about this."

On April 4, 1987, shortly after Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* fetched £24 million and flower paintings were in vogue, a policeman on his beat noticed a hole in the gallery's door and an empty display easel in

■ A rare happy ending in the world of international art theft concludes the saga of a painting that is back in England

the window. None of the security systems had been disturbed, but the thief had left his visiting card, a fishing line that had apparently been used to pluck the painting from its perch.

Nothing was heard for four years, during which time the insurance payment was made. Then, in September last year, a Japanese man walked into Wildenstein's Tokyo branch and asked for a valuation on the same painting. He had no idea that the painting had been removed from the dealer's counterpart in London.

Staff recognised the work and persuaded the man to leave the painting behind. They notified Interpol in London, and had their lawyer, Michael Payton, rush through an injunction claiming title. There were fears that during its travels the painting

might have changed hands, making for claims by disgruntled buyers. In countries such as Japan, title can pass under certain conditions, whereas under English law it usually stays with the original owner.

But the insurers did not need to worry. The man had been acting in good faith for a Japanese finance company, which had been asked to advance money on the painting, and had been asked to obtain an official valuation. When he was told the painting was stolen, he signed a statement cancelling any claim on the painting. "There was much avoidance of loss of face," Mr Payton said.

As for what happened between the theft and the visit to Wildenstein, Tokyo, Mr Payton said: "That is still a bit opaque. We discovered it went to Israel and Switzerland, but through whose hands we

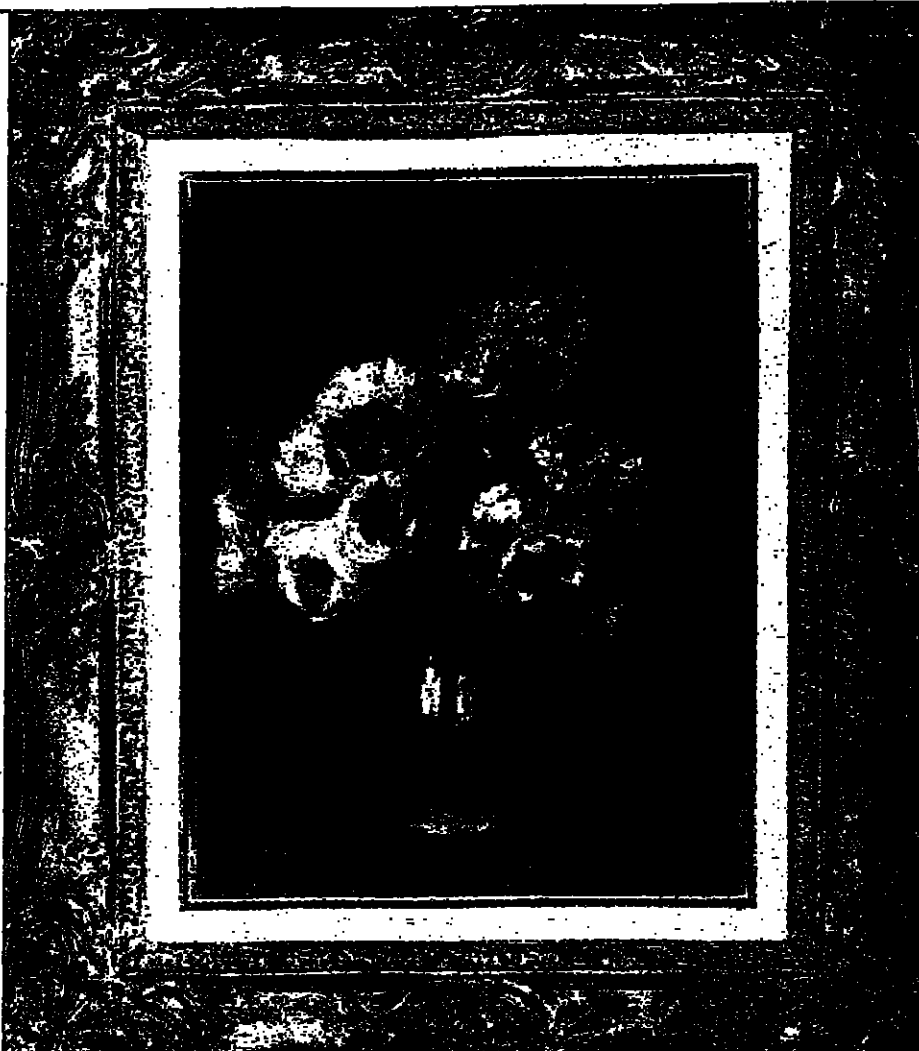
don't know."

□ The British Museum is trying to recover a national treasure unearthed by a man using a metal detector.

The 2,000-year-old bronze plaque of the Roman emperor Claudius fetched £26,000 at a Christie's auction last July. According to the police, it had been removed from land in North Yorkshire. A man was later questioned in Lancashire.

Christie's described the plaque as unique, said a police spokesman, and the British Museum had now classified it as an item of national interest. □ A £600,000 picture, stolen a year ago in Oxfordshire, has been recovered and will be the centrepiece of a Sotheby's sale on Thursday.

The Antique Juggling Girl, a nude by Frederic, Lord Leighton, one of the greatest figures in Victorian art, had belonged to the same family since 1900. It was stolen from an isolated farmhouse at Grafton. Despite a £22,000 reward it was thought to have disappeared completely until detective work traced it to London.



Floral fortune: Renoir's *A Vase of Flowers* was stolen when flowers were in vogue

Car deaths man held in custody

A 20-year-old man accused of killing Deanne Harlow, 7, and her friend Nadine Groom, 8, by dangerous driving was remanded in custody by magistrates at Walsall, West Midlands, yesterday.

Nelson Jerram, for the prosecution, said Jenson Wray Cartwright of Darlaston, Walsall, should be held "for his own protection".

The two girls were struck by a BMW car and hurled through a wall as they walked in Darlaston on Saturday.

Farmer jailed over ewe ban

Animal rights campaigners cheered when Colin French, 57, was jailed for three months and ordered to pay £3,000 costs after magistrates at Buckingham found him guilty of 13 breaches on a ban on keeping animals.

French, of Brook Farm, near Winslow, Buckinghamshire, was released on bail pending an appeal. Inspectors found 416 starving ewes on his farm.

Ward attack

A scaffolder who admitted attacking an intensive care patient with a machete, Lancelet Mouson, 50, was remanded in custody for sentence at Newcastle Crown Court.

Thai case

Police in Thailand have charged Joseph McCracken, 45, of Mounin Ash, Glamorgan, with stabbing his partner Morgan Oliver to death. If found guilty he could face the death penalty.

Escaper killed

A prisoner on the run from Ranby open prison, Nottinghamshire, Shaun Featherstone, 22, was killed when he crashed a stolen car at Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Army enquiry

Military police are interviewing 15 members of the Royal Engineers following claims that a 30-year-old man was abducted and sexually assaulted at Aldershot, Hampshire.

Youth beaten

Howard Englert, 18, a student at Windsor Boys' School, was put on probation at Reading Crown Court, Berkshire, after he admitted beating an Asian youth senseless with a knuckleduster.

Mill moves

Brynbo steel mill near Wrexham, Chwyd, which closed in 1990, is to be dismantled and shipped to China.

Shopping event

The Times/Thomas Goode shopping evening will take place this Thursday from 6pm to 8pm at Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1. For reservations telephone Thomas Goode on 071-499 2823 between 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Aid group to help the bereaved

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of people die on Britain's roads each year but their relatives may face uncaring officialdom and complex legal difficulties without the sort of counselling help given to the victims of crime, according to Victim Support.

In one case, a mother whose son was knocked off his bike and killed was never told the date of the inquest or a trial and only found out they had taken place when she read the result in a newspaper. In another case a couple were told of the death of their adult daughter when the police left a message on their answering machine.

Victim Support, which has helped 700 families in the past year, is launching a working party including the police, motoring organisations, the Crown Prosecution Service and family help organisations. The group will look at good practice for the police, and consider the emotional impact of a death and the experiences of relatives at the hands of the police, the insurance companies and the law.

The move follows a study for Victim Support by a London police inspector last year which questioned the way police dealt with families and studied a Dutch scheme for helping relatives of road victims. The study suggested Victim Support should take up the role of helping relatives. Some Victim Support schemes do already provide help and the organisation is now looking at whether it can or should expand.

How to compose a maestro's menu

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

SUPPER menus for opera-goers may soon offer a number of new dishes culled from the notebooks of Gioachino Rossini, the composer, gastronome and man after Luciano Pavarotti's heart. Rossini's recipes have been published along with a CD recording of his musical highlights to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth. They contain such delights as "A Risotto by Rossini", "Thrush and Chestnut soup alla Rossini" and "Cream Potage Rossini".

At the age of 37, Rossini stopped composing, and turned his hand to his other speciality, food. Throughout his musical career his efforts were split between the two pursuits; when the first night failure of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* was followed by its smash hit success in 1816, the maestro wrote to Angelica Colbran, a singer with whom he was madly in love. "But what interests me beyond the music, dear Angelica, is the discovery I've made of a new salad, for which I am sending you the recipe."

The book lists 26 of Rossini's recipes (coddled sweetbreads are topped with foie gras, slices of truffle and a sauce made from marsala) and also



Rossini: a man after Pavarotti's heart

contains the first translation of a manuscript by the French nobleman Poullet Dumont entitled *Le macaroni de Rossini*.

The Frenchman describes the gourmet's pasta cooking method: "Rossini stood there without moving, as if in a spell, watching over his favourite dish and listening to the delicate murmur of his beloved pasta as if his ear were tuned to the harmonious notes of the *Divine Comedy*."

Rossini enjoyed small, convivial gatherings and invitations were sought after. Weber, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Verdi were all guests. His cook-book, *Il Banchetto Musicale del Signor Rossini*, has been compiled by Franco Ridoi, the Italian restaurateur.

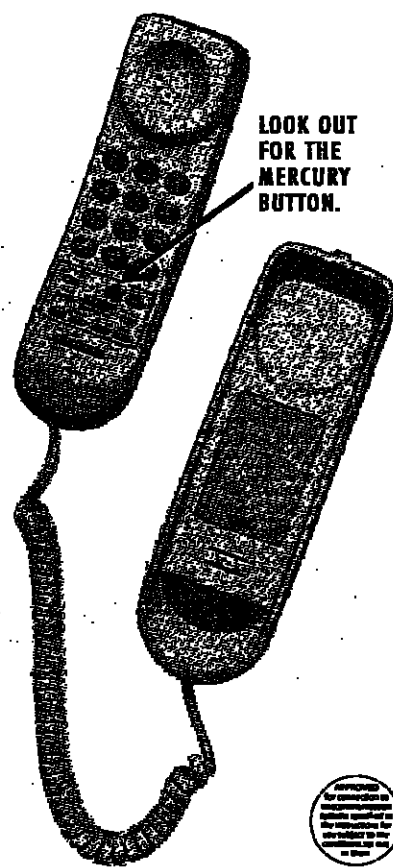
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Critics hit at GPs who plan £20m 'superfund'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 GP fundholders in one health district are planning to band together to form a "superfund" with a budget of up to £20 million, nearly one third of the budget of the local health authority.

The superfund, the largest so far planned, will cover 75 per cent of the local population and give the GPs unrivalled influence over the kind of hospital services provided. However, critics say it will diminish the scope for competition among practices which was one of the main aims of the NHS reforms.

The aim of the fund, which will cover 110 GPs from 32 practices in Kingston and Richmond, southwest London, is to reduce the administrative work for each practice by employing specialist staff to negotiate contracts, monitor spending and keep track of where patients are being treated.

"It will give us more collective clout," said Dr Peter Smith, one of the scheme's architects. "We hope to employ someone extremely experienced to negotiate the contracts and we hope it will be done more effectively than we could do individually."

To pay for the staff, establish a central office and link the member practices by computer, the management allowances, which range up to

£34,500 for each fundholding practice, will be pooled. The total could amount to almost £700,000, according to *Fundholding* magazine, which first revealed details of the scheme. The fund will be controlled by a committee with representatives from each of the member fundholders.

Dr Smith said: "The idea is to remove a lot of the workload of fundholding so that the GPs can get on with treating patients. Individual tasks — from negotiating the contracts to the daily business of entering information into the computer — can be done by people experienced in that task."

However, Dr Richard Gibbs, chief executive of Kingston and Esher health authority, said the size of the superfund could threaten the authority's capacity to deliver government objectives.

"Under this scheme, GPs will become major players rather than niche players. I can't be held accountable for national policies on waiting times, the patients charter and community care if a major part of the action is controlled by another player."

Because 75 per cent of the population will be covered by the fund, it would also reduce the potential for the development of a two-tier service, Dr Smith said.

Each fundholding practice will retain control of its own budget and the freedom to place contracts where it chooses. "They will tell the superfund committee which hospital contracts and services they want to buy. But a lot of us will want to deal with the same hospitals, so where possible block contracts covering several fundholders will be negotiated."

There would be no question of GPs being told they could not refer where they chose to, Dr Smith said. "We want the local hospitals to flourish but this scheme puts the GPs in the driving seat."

The development of consortiums of fundholders is growing and is seen as a way of involving smaller practices that would be unable to run a fund on their own. But the health department said that fundholders should always retain separate identities and individual budgets. "The consortium is only there to do some of the leg work. The buck stops with the individual practices," said a spokesman.

Professor Chris Ham, director of the Health Services Management Centre in Birmingham, said: "Any individual practice involved in a consortium has to give up a degree of sovereignty. To some degree it reduces the differences between practices and may run counter to what the government intended."

However, consortiums of GPs tend to be unstable. Professor Ham said: "Family doctors are individualistic in their approach. Even getting GPs in one practice to work together is difficult. It remains to be seen how robust the Kingston group is in the longer term. A similar consortium in Merseyside involving only five practices has already started to break up."

The scheme contrasts with initiatives taken by health authorities in Bath, Derbyshire and Stockport to be more sensitive to GPs' needs in negotiating contracts with local hospitals, so that the GPs are less inclined to take up fundholding, he said.



Pick of the bunch: Jeff Kennaugh helps harvest the grapes at one of Europe's most northern commercial vineyards (Ronald Faux writes). More than 60 pickers working by hand are stripping the 12 Cheshire acres that confound nature and astonish the taste buds of numerous wine masters. "Many have tried but none has succeeded in identifying our wine as English. They are amazed when they learn it comes from Cheshire," said

John Broome, entrepreneur and owner of the vineyard at Carden Park, six miles south of Chester.

The Seyval blanc vines were planted in 1988 after Mr Broome discovered his property was a meteorological hot spot with a mild microclimate in the lee of the Welsh hills.

"As far as soil temperatures, sunshine and rainfall go this small area enjoys a climate very similar to the Loire valley," he said. The wettest

August for six years and a record drenching in September have not diminished the chances of a fine crop this year and Carden expects to market about 35,000 bottles of Chablis-style wine.

Trade wars with America and competition within Europe are no threat to the Carden product since most of it is sold within Cheshire. Some reach an outlet in Paris where the English wine is developing a small

but appreciative following. Mr Broome, who launched the Alton Towers leisure park, has invested £2.5 million in the project. "No mechanical equipment is allowed and when we have to spray the plants it is done sideways so nothing goes into the soil," Mr Broome was not the first to recognise the potential of Carden. Some 1,700 years ago, the Romans enjoyed the fruits of similar labours. Leading article, page 17

Prisons predict continued overspill

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office prison accommodation may not be large enough to handle projected changes in the prison population. The use of police cells could still be a problem even in the late 1990s, a senior prison service official said yesterday.

Peter Wright, head of a prison tactical management and planning unit, told a local government and police seminar that the present use of police cells could soon end. Prison expansion plans would more than meet projected population figures until 1995. However, after 1995 the jail population was projected to rise further. "In future we may well have to face some difficult decisions again," he said.

Mr Wright said new prisons were being built and extra accommodation had also been found within the system. This year the number of prisoners in police cells peaked in March at 1,882. The figure last week was 530.

Police cells were used either because prisons were full, or because prisoners were taken into custody too late to be found a place in jail. About 100 to 200 prisoners a day might be held by police because of their late appearance. The present use of police cells resulted from destruction at a number of prisons, including Strangeways, and a decision in the past few years to reduce overcrowding in jails.

John Over, chief constable of Gwent, told the seminar that at one stage during the present accommodation crisis 200 police stations across Britain held prisoners. It cost £250 a day to house each prisoner, which meant an annual bill of £100 million for the Home Office. Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said that keeping a prisoner in a police cell each night cost more than a room at the Ritz.

He said police cells were now expected to hold the excess from the prison system. If the situation continued to be desperate the Home Office should consider making use of powers of executive release that had been available for the past ten years. Non-violent prisoners could be given early release to free space.

Why Hobson country may be Britain's best choice

■ The North West, once viewed as a grimy industrial centre, has the potential to be the base for a post-recession boom, according to a report published yesterday

in these gloom, gloomy times.

A slump in the moment when the next surge forward is being prepared. In the gloom of the thirties, the new consumer society was born in the radio factories along London's Great West Road. Here, the North West — from Carlisle to Crewe and from the Wirral to the Pennines — is put forward persuasively not as Britain's past (Liverpool's dereliction,

Manchester's squalid slums), but as the place where a prosperous and attractive future might lie.

The report is published by the North West office of the Civic Trust, and written by the environmentalist and entrepreneur David Fletcher. Although it comes with the blessing of many industrialists, it is a green vision of the future. The North West in-

cludes Britain's most densely urban terrain but also the Lake District.

This is a two-fisted strategic plan. It is important not only to complete the motorway network but also to plant trees in the many grey, half-built-up areas between the towns of south Lancashire and to create an attractive new "rurban" landscape.

Image is always slower than

reality. Since the Dock Labour Scheme was abolished, Liverpool has again become Britain's major transatlantic seaport. With Manchester airport, it is a huge engine for generating regional trade.

One of the best-loved pieces of writing to come out of Manchester is Harold Brighouse's comedy *Hobson's Choice*. But Hobson's choice is a synonym for no choice at all. *England's North-West* shows that there is always another choice, another road, if you decide to take it. For Manchester and its region, it's not back to the past with hand-wringing, but back to the future, with hope.

Birthdays linked to death rate

By NICK NUTTALL

A STUDY of death rates among nearly three million people found that adult males are more likely to die of heart attacks and other natural causes in the week before their birthday, whereas death rates for women seem to peak after birthdays.

Children might view celebrations as a time of gifts and parties, but adults, particularly men, seem to react less euphorically and in possibly psychologically unhealthy ways. The increased risk is small, three per cent, but the study covered 21 years of deaths, from 1969 to 1990, involving 2,745,149 people.

The findings, which are published in *Psychosomatic Medicine*, have been made by a team at the University of California, in San Diego, led by David Phillips, a sociologist.

Dr Phillips looked at links between birthdays and death rates after completing similar studies linked with religious festivals. Death rates for Jewish people fall before Passover and rise just after. The researchers found, Dr Phillips says that birthdays may act as a "lifeline" for women but a "deathline" for men.

The researchers suggest a looming birthday becomes a time when men take stock of financial and career achievements compared with goals, making birthdays a stressful time that could aggravate existing medical conditions.

Flying squad urged to check law firms

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A "FLYING SQUAD" of inspectors from the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau should make unannounced calls on law firms facing complaints from members of the public or other lawyers, the Young Solicitors' Group recommends.

Solicitors should all have a "practice" licence which would be endorsed with penalty points for "the more minor offences", the group recommends. The group, which represents about half all practising solicitors, puts forward its proposals in response to *The Cost of Default*, the recent Law Society paper, which suggests measures to tackle the soaring cost for the profession of compensation claims.

Next year the profession is expected to face another huge levy to meet a further rise in claims against the compensation fund, which mainly handles claims against sole practitioners. But the Law Society proposals threaten to squeeze "already hard-pressed sole practitioners out of busi-

ness", the young solicitors say. That would damage public access to the profession. "It must not be forgotten that in large areas of the country the only access to legal services and legal advice is through a local sole practitioner."

To impose restrictions on sole practitioners would lead to a "severe and undesirable reduction in the access to justice for members of the general public, particularly in rural areas."

The group says the "flying squad" could also be sent in if firms were late submitting accounts without a good explanation. The licence would be suspended for a specified period when a certain number of points had been reached.

The Law Society could keep an "at risk" register for solicitors who totted up six points. They would be subject to closer scrutiny which might help tackle minor problems before they become "major catastrophes", the group says.

Law reports, pages 33-35

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN

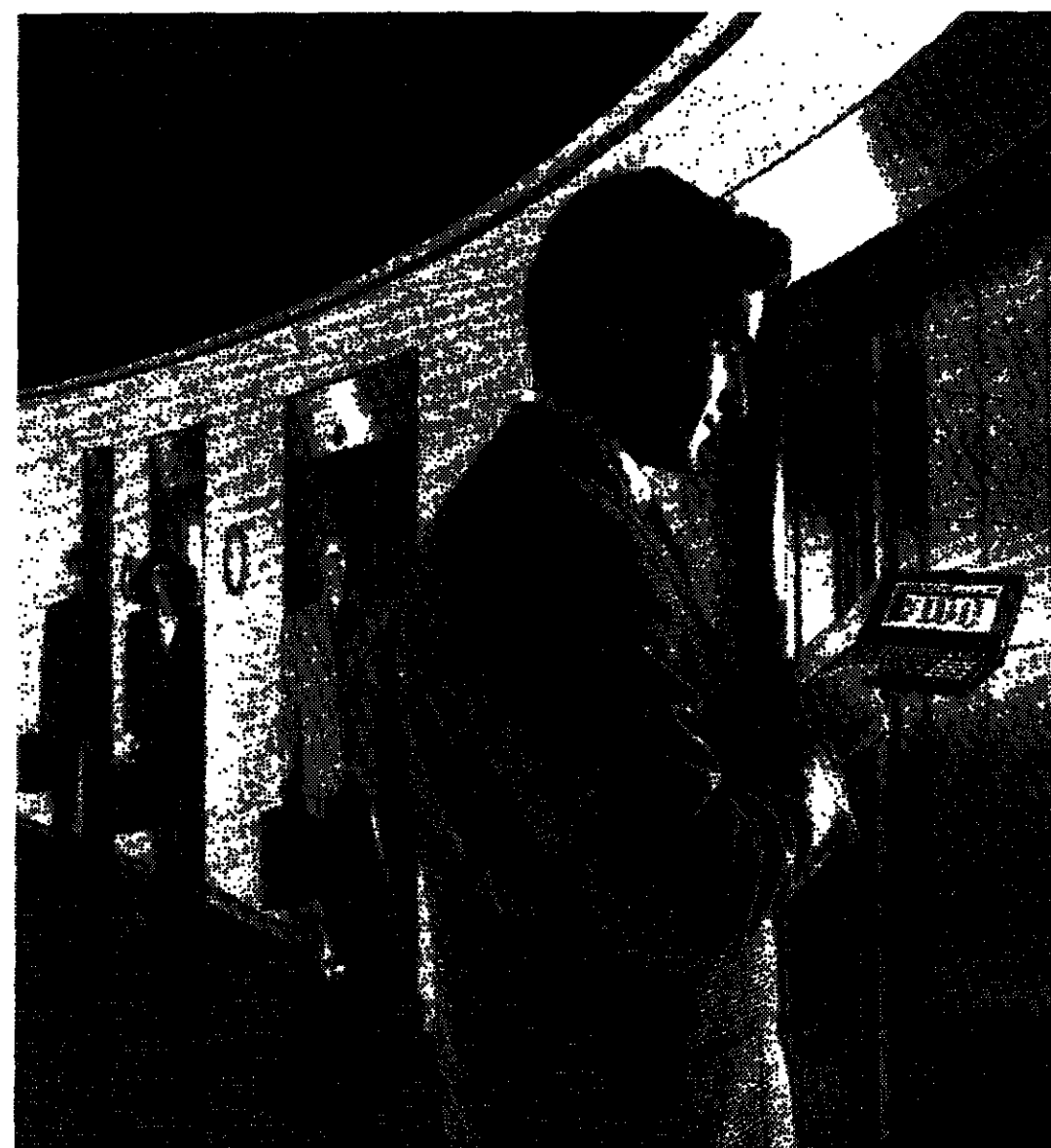


Jonathan Miller will never direct a thriller. He prefers plays that won't stale set in the Third Reich, on ice, with dwarves, all male.

Is Robert Kilroy Silk Really as smooth as milk? I don't wish to bitch But you must have noticed his twitch.

Harold Pinter Is a joy to his printer. So many blanks Are a cause for much thanks.

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transfer files to and from your PC in a matter of seconds and work on them when and where you want.

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original price of £129 plus VAT. And you don't need a calculator to work out what a great deal that is.

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The HP 95LX Palmtop. The perfect companion for your PC.

hp HEWLETT PACKARD

Recession forces strapped firms to use cut-price flights to Europe

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of struggling small businesses are cutting costs by booking "day-trip" flights to attend meetings in Europe.

Tour operators are offering one-day excursions to big cities at prices much lower than those charged by scheduled airlines, to attract tourists and Christmas shoppers. A day trip to Berlin, for example, costs £99 with Airtours compared with the scheduled return fare of £536.

"This has proved a very successful development in the market," said Karen Gee, marketing manager for Airtours. "You don't have to pack an overnight bag, and can choose whether you want to go off on your own or take part in an organised tour of the city. Executives have discovered that they can fly, for

example, to Rome from Manchester for £129 compared with the usual scheduled fare of £624, or to Vienna for £119, compared with £394. This is a very real saving and is often vitally important for small companies struggling in the recession."

However, David Whittaker, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents, believes that most executives will shun charter flights, or even cheap deals on scheduled airlines, because of their perceived need for status. "These offers do provide opportunities to cut costs, but a very big percentage of our clients are very status conscious and still prefer to travel in scheduled business class."

The special day trips operate on certain days and an executive would have to check

whether the flight coincided with his needs.

A survey by Wagons-Lits, the Franco-Belgian travel group, showed yesterday that 49 per cent of companies have ordered salesmen and executives to downgrade their class of travel or hotel. More than 38 per cent of companies are making fewer business trips than two years ago, and those that are still travelling are using the cheapest economy seats.

The research shows that 82 per cent of travellers rely on secretaries to make bookings and few secretaries would be expected to know about the savings available. Thomas Cook, which also specialises in business travel, said: "This type of trip is equally attractive to both individuals and companies of all sizes."

سكنا من الأصل

It took John Fisher minutes to connect his computer to his printer.

How did I connect a laser printer to my computer?

- ① I looked on the back of the PC, and found the parallel printer port, and plugged in the cable.
- ② I opened the "Main" icon.
- ③ I opened the "Control Panel".
- ④ I double-clicked on the printer's icon in the Control Panel.
- ⑤ I clicked on "Add >>".
- ⑥ I saw the list of "Printer Drivers...".
- ⑦ I saw my printer listed and then selected the "non-Postscript" version.
- ⑧ I clicked on "Install" and then I got another dialogue box that asked me to
- ⑨ Insert the Software Operating System disk where the driver is found.

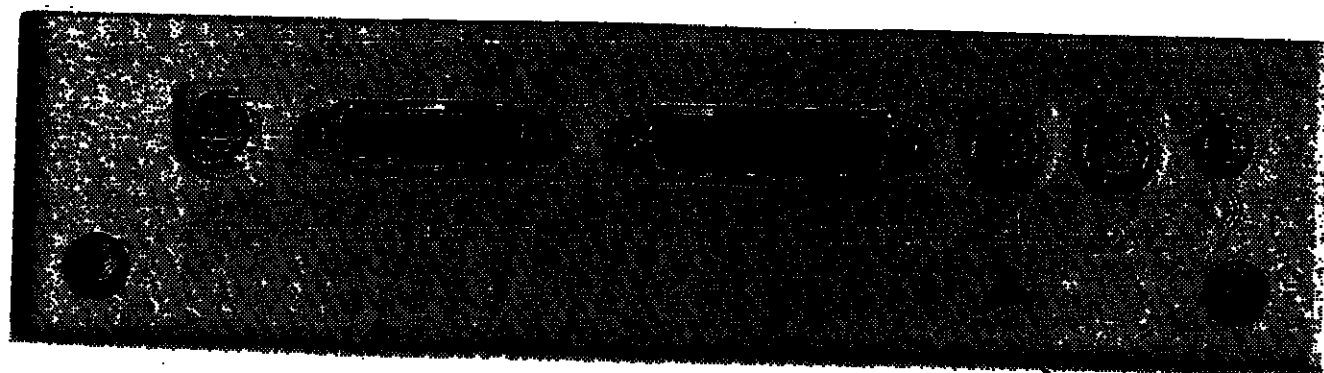


- ⑩ The printer was now installed on the default port LPT 1.
- ⑪ Then I printed.

It was really easy John Fisher

One more of the little things that makes a Macintosh a lot easier. A Macintosh doesn't ask you to go through a complicated process to add a new printer. Plug in any Apple printer and you're ready to go. (Or, add most other printers with a few clicks of a mouse.) Macintosh computers don't expect you to install complicated networking cards or expensive file sharing software if you

ect It took Betty Midland seconds to connect her Macintosh to her printer.



I I looked on the back of the Macintosh for the plug with the little picture of a printer over it. I plugged in the cable from the Apple printer.



II I selected the Chooser (so named because it lets you choose), saw the name of my printer, and selected it.

III Then I printed.
That's all it took.

Betty Midland

want your computers to work together - just connect them together with a simple cable. You can set up a Macintosh in seconds, and learn to use one in minutes. No other computer makes it so easy to do so much. For more information, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Apple. **A Macintosh never asks you to do what a computer should do.**

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Apple

مكتبة الأمل

Britain signs friendship and defence pacts but balks at granting aid

Yeltsin courts West's support in time of troubles at home

By ANNE McELVOY, MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday welcomed President Yeltsin of Russia on his first official visit to Britain and said that the occasion had "consigned the Cold war to the rubbish heap".

Mr Yeltsin, who is facing a showdown with hardliners at home over the future of his reform course, arrived with a delegation of nearly a hundred officials. Moscow's traditional way of reflecting the importance it attaches to the trip at a time when Mr Yeltsin needs support in the West.

The two leaders held talks in Downing Street before Mr Yeltsin was spirited away in his Zil stretch limousine, specially transferred from Moscow for the occasion, to the Stock Exchange in the City to address businessmen — the first time a Kremlin leader has entered the temple of British capitalism.

The tour is being marked by a clutch of treaties on economy and defence, the installation of a telephone hotline between Downing Street and the Kremlin, but not by the injection of financial aid Moscow wants. Britain has made clear that it wants Mr Yeltsin to bring Russia's galloping inflation under control first, a task which will prove difficult if the centre-right Civic Union enters an alliance to stabilise Mr Yeltsin's beleaguered government and insists on increasing state credits and investments.

Mr Yeltsin was accompanied by Andrei Kozirev, his foreign minister, one of the liberals he is trying to save from the Civic Union, which wants a more cautious transition to the free market.

In ebullient form and intent on putting a brave face on his domestic difficulties, Mr Yeltsin showed his traditional disregard for formality, slipping through the security cordon at Heathrow airport to tell

Russian journalists that his reforms would continue despite the serious economic situation in the country.

A lunch attended by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, gave both the chance to compare the perils of inflation, although with Russia's prices increasing at 1,500 per cent a year, Mr Lamont must have felt a rare spurt of comfort. Later, on finding his host under pressure to answer questions on whether he had plans to raise taxes, the visitor could not resist a suppressed smile as the interpreter whispered a translation, perhaps enjoying the rare luxury of not being the one under fire.

Mr Major and Mr Yeltsin, who have a good personal rapport, signed the first com-

Great once worked as a carpenter in the dockyards, the prime minister praised Mr Yeltsin for his courage in creating free enterprise from scratch.

Speaking after their talks, Mr Yeltsin said that the treaty would end the days of "whipping up military hysteria and ideological confrontation" and added: "The era of confrontation has been relegated to history."

At the Stock Exchange, Mr Yeltsin said Russia was keen to learn Western ways of doing business and management techniques. "I would like to say in this connection: we in Russia share the expression, so popular in the City — that there is no such thing as a free lunch."

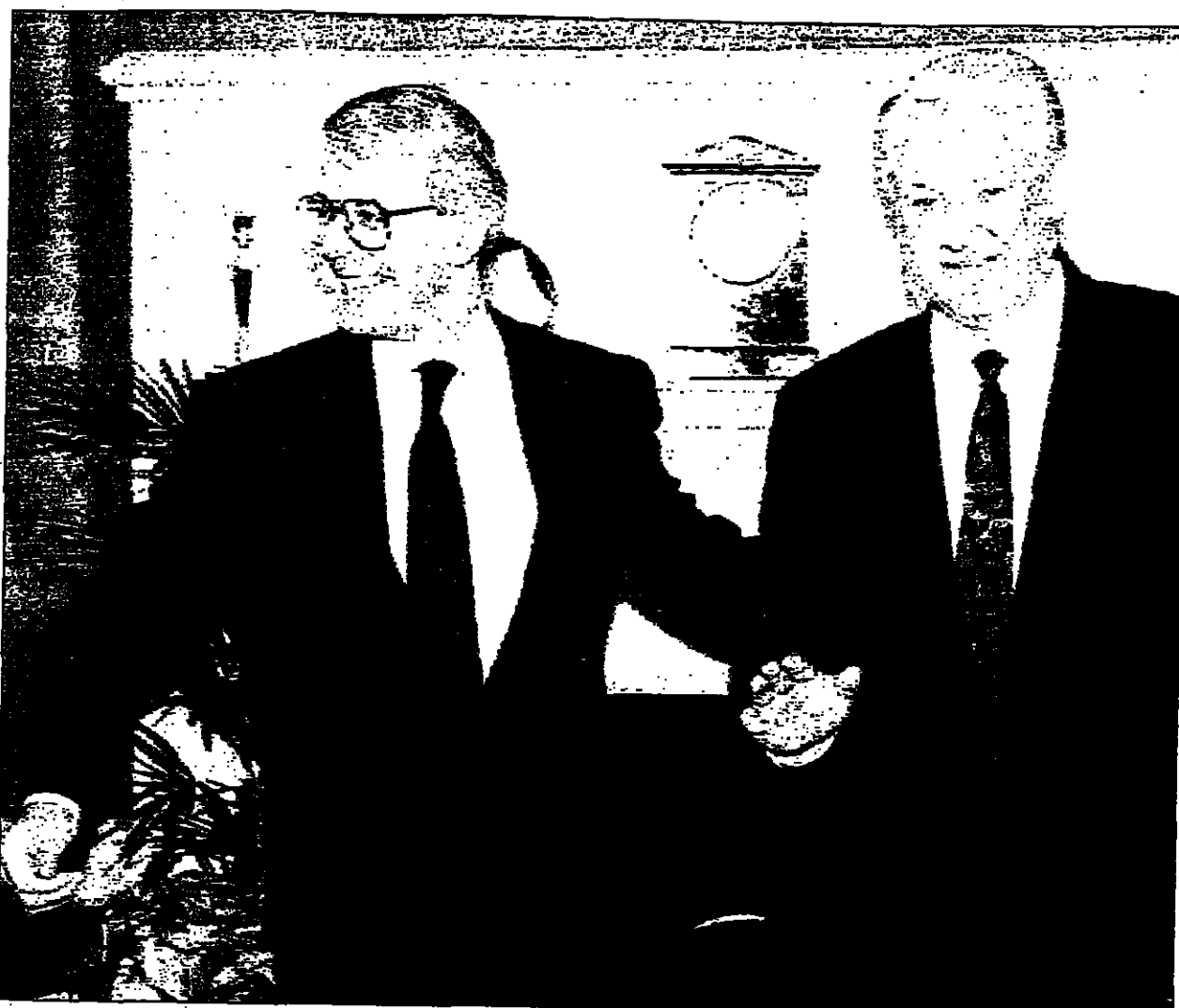
He asked for a rescheduling of Russia's debt to the West to cover the last year of the Soviet Union's existence — a move which amounts to a postponement and has hitherto been resisted by Western creditors. Commenting on the IMF-backed reform policy now under strain in Russia as prices rise and unemployment threatens, Mr Yeltsin struck a cautious tone intended to reassure Western governments that he will not allow the changes to be reversed, while hinting that he is prepared to follow the opposition Civic Union's demands to soften the sharper edges of the programme and allow a limited resurgence of state intervention.

Today Mr Yeltsin will lay a wreath at St Paul's Cathedral before joining the Queen for lunch at Buckingham Palace where he will invite her to visit Russia. His predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev, issued a similar request three years ago but the political instability in the then Soviet Union prevented its realisation.



Kozirev: keen to press on with reforms

prehensive treaty between their countries since the 1766 Treaty of Commerce and Amity during the reign of Catherine the Great and five other documents covering increased economic and military co-operation and the transport of nuclear arms. Mr Major accepted an invitation to a return visit. At a dinner in Greenwich where the young Peter the



Russian rendezvous: John Major and President Yeltsin at Downing Street yesterday before signing a friendship treaty

Historic treaty ends era of confrontation

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major and President Yeltsin of Russia yesterday signed the first bilateral treaty between their countries since the 1766 Treaty of Amity. The ten-page document promises an end to the era of ideological and military confrontation in Europe.

The treaty begins with a categorical first article: "There shall be peace and friendship between the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

The two sides go on to recognise their special responsibility as permanent members of the security council and promise "to work closely together in upholding

the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter".

They will develop relations according to international law, and commit themselves to a peaceful resolution of disputes, an open society, democratic principles and respect for human rights and the rule of law. They promise regular consultations "at the highest political levels", as well as meetings between ministers and officials.

The treaty commits Britain and Russia to helping achieve effective arms control and enhancing military security. "They shall co-operate to support international measures to reduce armed forces and arms to the minimum levels

commensurate with legitimate defence needs." There will be regular exchanges between armed forces, staff talks and contacts between military establishments.

Both countries will try to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology and pursue "responsible policies" on the transfer of conventional arms. They will co-operate in enforcing export controls and encouraging further accessions to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They will also work together on safely disposing of weapons of mass destruction.

Both sides will strengthen the 1972 convention banning

biological weapons, and will strive for the signature and entry into force of "an effective and verifiable multilateral convention to ban chemical weapons".

Openness, security and stability in military affairs will be developed in the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Both sides will work towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. And they will abide by the guidelines on exports of conventional weapons agreed by the permanent security council members in 1991. Two articles deal with economic co-operation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Caucasus fighting 'stopped'

Moscow: President Yeltsin claimed yesterday that decisive action by his government and its security forces had put an end to the blood-letting in the Caucasus, which in recent days has seen the first outright ethnic war within the boundaries of independent Russia.

However, he gave a sign of Moscow's continued sharp concern over the region, home to a patchwork of small, mainly Muslim nations with warrior traditions, by naming one of his most trusted advisers, Sergei Shakhrai, to take effective control of the area.

Mr Yeltsin, speaking as he left for London, said Moscow's timely despatch of troops had ended savage fighting between the Ingush and Ossetians.

Nuclear treaty

Paris: France and Russia will sign a technical accord this week on dismantling warheads from deactivated Russian nuclear weapons, the French defence ministry said. Andrei Kozirev, the Russian foreign minister, visits Paris for two days. (AP)

Sailors charged

Rome: Six Ukrainian sailors have been charged with murder after allegedly confessing that they threw eight Ghanaian stowaways overboard at sea. The sole survivor told French police that they were dumped off Portugal. (Reuters)

Student appeal

Paris: The Organisation for Africa Unity and Unesco have launched an urgent appeal for funds to help some 20,000 African students stranded destitute in Eastern Europe after their scholarships and living allowances ran out. (Reuters)

Dubcek tribute

Prague: Vladimír Mečiar, the Slovak premier, will preside at a state funeral in Bratislava on Saturday for Alexander Dubcek, former head of the Czechoslovak Communist party and hero of the 1968 Prague Spring.

THERE ARE 115 SERIALS ON TV NEXT WEEK.

HOW DO YOU SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF?

RadioTimes. Make the most of your time.

Maastricht division leaves British leadership in disarray



Hurd: demoralised after four months

WHEN Douglas Hurd unveiled the logo for the British presidency of the European Community, he noted that the lion was striding "purposefully into the heart of Europe". The foreign secretary also had a note of purpose in his voice, a frisky confidence that Britain would at last quell any doubts about Europe and lead the Community through a busy agenda for its development.

Four months later Mr Hurd is tired and demoralised, the government is divided over Europe, the country in uproar and Britain's leadership is being written off by its partners as one of the most chaotic and disorganised in the Community has experienced.

Few of the goals Britain set itself have been achieved. A Gatt agreement is in danger of slipping out of reach, and Britain has been unable to rally enough support to over-

Britain's four-month presidency of the EC has been chaotic, but there is just enough time left to restore some credibility
writes Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

rule the French opposition. Negotiations on enlargement — a British priority — cannot begin until the Maastricht treaty has been ratified and the Twelve have reached agreement on the EC's future finances: both now unlikely during the British presidency. The Community has failed to translate its calls for greater openness into new procedures. On subsidiarity, the Twelve and the Commission are arguing among themselves over the definition and which powers Brussels should return to member states.

Even Britain's critics concede, however, that the disarray is not entirely the

government's fault. The Danish referendum and the subsequent currency turmoil blew aside Britain's proposed timetable, encouraged the Tory backbench revolt that has occupied so much of the government's energy and attention and has left Britain confused over how to get back on course.

The government's reaction, however, has raised hackles on the Continent. Blaming the Germans for sterling's collapse in the exchange-rate mechanism so angered Bonn that even strenuous diplomatic efforts to repair the damage has not restored full trust between the governments.

This in turn has made it harder for John Major to persuade Helmut Kohl to use his leverage in Paris over Gatt. The government's initial call for a revamping of the ERM and its contention that Maastricht was dead were rejected by most of its partners. Its subsequent attempt to sell the Maastricht treaty to domestic critics by repeated emphasis on how it would stop federal tendencies in Europe raised suspicions in Europe that Britain's real aim was to emasculate as many of the provisions as possible. And, however unfairly, the government's proposal to delay ratification is seen as footdragging, with Britain hiding behind the skirts of Denmark. Britain has effectively handed over the issue, to Copenhagen.

Most damaging of all has been the appearance that the government is still split over

Maastricht. With the backbench revolt not fully crushed, hopes raised by Mr Major's contention last year that Britain would be at the heart of Europe have been superseded by a realisation that he cannot now deliver and has to argue every European policy against a background of opposition in his own party.

As David Howell, the chairman of the Commons select committee on foreign affairs, wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday, the hairbreadth Commons vote last Wednesday and the decision to delay final legislative approval until the middle of next year "gave the impression that Britain is both lukewarm and divided about its role in the EC". He called this a false impression, and cited Britain's commitment to the single market. But the arguments over Maastricht have overshadowed the continued

steady progress in completing the market, arguably an achievement for which Britain should take most credit.

Government supporters maintain that Britain was dealt a difficult hand during its presidency, with agreement on the so-called Delors II package on Community finances unlikely. Britain's ability to broker compromises on this and on other issues has been weakened however, partly by the tactics initial approach Norman Lamont took in the finance package, and partly by the underlying impression among Britain's partners that the government is arguing only for an agenda that is good for Britain.

The government has tried to brush away popular hostility to the EC: Mr Hurd again yesterday ridiculed the "myths" of tabloid prejudice, the Euro-fanatics of directives

on fishermen's hairnets, prawn crawns and soft cheese. But at the same time Britain complains so vigorously about interference by Brussels in the "nooks and crannies" of British life that it appears to be at permanent war with the Commission, which does not make for smooth relations. The portrayal of last week's meeting over Gatt between Mr Major and Jacques Delors, the Commission president, as a "carpeting" reinforces suspicions by other countries that the British presidency sees itself as a natural opponent of the Commission, still seen as a guarantor of their interests by the smaller countries.

Most presidencies suffer a credibility crisis at some stage: most recover in the final month to chalk up a list of success. Britain's reputation will go up sharply if a Gatt agreement can be achieved. At present both look precarious.

Germany withdraws support for French trade talks tactics

■ The prospect of a transatlantic trade war is causing cracks in the normally close relationship between Paris and Bonn

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

THE first signs of a split between France and Germany over the stalled world trade talks appeared yesterday as EC foreign ministers met amid continuing confusion over how negotiations can be restarted.

Discreet German support for French blocking tactics in the talks has been an important factor in slowing negotiations over farm subsidies which are holding up a new global treaty to free world trade. Yesterday the two governments adopted sharply contrasting positions over whether the EC should prepare for a trade war with America or concentrate on trying to save the talks in the four weeks left before US sanctions take effect.

France would ask its partners to instruct the European

Commission to prepare a list of American goods to be targeted for higher tariffs, its deputy trade and industry minister said on his way to the meeting yesterday. Bruno Durieux said that the EC should not back down in the face of American threats and that retaliation should be considered immediately.

Jürgen Möllemann, the German economics minister, said that the community had time to organise counter-sanctions if they became necessary. "We are not a group of generals," he said. "We are not talking in military terms. We are looking for a political solution." During last week, France's call for a quick and aggressive EC response found few allies and only faint echoes from the Belgian and Spanish governments. The

meeting seemed likely to endorse arguments by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that fresh talks were more important than sanction preparations.

The German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported at the weekend that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was shifting away from his support for French intransigence in the trade talks. The magazine reported that the German leader had been persuaded that Bill Clinton, the American president-elect, wanted to see a deal done before he took office in the New Year. Herr Kohl had shifted his stance from backing France's "through thick and thin" to agreeing with Clinton aides.

Germany's main foreign trade association yesterday attacked Jacques Delors for his chauvinistic scepticism about the benefits of the world trade deal on offer. Michael Fuchs, president of the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade, said that it was incredible that the EC should risk a devastating trade war by prolonging a dispute over 80,000 tonnes of wheat and 500,000 tonnes of oilseed.

He also attacked the German government for watching from the sidelines instead of pressing for a deal on the basis of an American compromise offer. He said that it was incredible that Germany, the top export nation which could prevent this, just watched instead of accepting the compromise offer.

Herr Fuchs added: "The national, European and world economies are flagging, but France and M Delors are determining the future of world trade with this grain and oilseed dispute. Delors equals chauvinism, protectionism and selfishness. We cannot go on like this." Comparing M Delors to King Louis XIV of France, Herr Fuchs said: "We don't need another Sun King in Brussels. One in Paris was enough."

He also issued a warning that failure to reach agreement before the threatened American sanctions come into force on December 5 would lead to a devastating spiral of retaliation, a deterioration of global trade and a drop in prosperity. "There would be a dense network of nonsensical bilateral treaties almost back to the Stone Age — which would unnecessarily hamper world trade," he said.

A European Commission spokesman could shed no light yesterday on whether any high-level talks were planned or on who might conduct them if they happened. British officials said that they hoped that the European Commission would confirm Frans Andriessen, the EC's external relations commissioner, as its chief negotiator for any renewed talks.

Other EC diplomats also speculated that Ray MacSharry, the EC farm commissioner, might be ready to reinstate talks in spite of having withdrawn last week. By stepping aside and accusing the Commission president of sabotage Mr MacSharry has achieved his political objective of weakening M Delors' hand.

Mitterrand stages TV tour de force

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

ISOLATED both at home and abroad, President Mitterrand was due last night to stage one of his television tours de force, an attempt to dissipate public anger over the country's blood scandal and set the scene for a general election which is expected to throw his Socialist party out of office.

In his first address since the campaign for the Maastricht referendum and news of his prostate cancer in September, M Mitterrand was also expected to rally his people behind his refusal to countenance any compromise on agriculture, even at the cost of a trade war with the United States over the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade treaty.

Rival leaders of the conservative opposition parties were worried that he was about to lay one of the cunning traps, with which he has extracted himself from seemingly hopeless straits in the past. They expected him to announce plans for a constitutional reform which risked entangling them in disputes.

M Mitterrand, speaking on the 22nd anniversary of the death of De Gaulle, was planning to exorcise the conservative opposition parties for what he regards as their "disgraceful and squalid" exploitation of the blood transfusion affair. Three senior health officials were sent to prison two weeks ago.

The opposition in the Senate is attempting to convene a special court to try Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister, and two members of his cabinet for manslaughter. They were in charge in 1985 when the health service authorised the use of blood stocks contaminated with the HIV virus.

Though ancient history by political standards, the *affaire du sang* has acquired great emotional resonance in recent weeks, coming to typify, even for some of M Mitterrand's own cabinet, the arrogance of a government which has lost touch with its people. Some in the



Mitterrand: setting scene for election

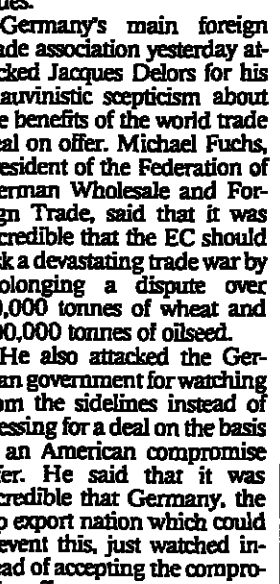
opposition, however, accept M Mitterrand's argument that in 1985 knowledge of Aids was so limited that governments in many countries failed to realise the dangers of distributing untreated blood.

"It is very dangerous and probably unjust to judge the acts of 1985 by the criteria of 1992," said Philippe Séguin, the dissident Gaullist party baron, who is no supporter of M Mitterrand.

France's isolation is, however, adding to a powerful sense of disillusion over Europe, seven weeks after the country narrowly approved the Maastricht treaty. "The French were rocked to sleep with the lullaby of Europe," *Le Figaro* said yesterday. "Maastricht was going to solve everything. The wake-up is bitter."

M Mitterrand's much-awaited appearance was effectively a starting signal for the campaign for parliamentary elections due in four months. His aides say he is in fine fettle despite his disease and he has no plan to withdraw from the scene if, as expected, the opposition parties sweep the elections.

They have depicted him as looking down from the presidential balcony relishing the spectacle of the feud between Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Jacques Chirac, the rival "elephants" who lead the UDF and Gaullist RPR parties.



Fire power: a fireman tackling the blaze which ravaged a Total oil refinery near Marseilles early yesterday. The fire started after explosions, probably caused by a gas leak. Five workers were killed and one is still missing

Delors backs down over EC budget

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, the European Commission president, yesterday backed down over his plans to swell the EC budget, saying that member states could not be expected to hand over more cash to Brussels in a recession.

M Delors said the cost of a new "cohesion" fund to help poorer member states could spread over seven, rather than five, years. And he hinted to foreign ministers meeting in

Brussels that some deal could be done in which Britain kept its EC rebate so long as it fully contributed to the fund.

Britain and Germany appeared united against any near-term spending increases in Brussels, and it now seems unlikely that the Delors budget proposals will be approved on anything like their original scale at the Edinburgh summit next month.

A spokesman for Douglas

Hurd, the foreign secretary, said the government welcomed the softening of M Delors' stance but still objected to the amount he wanted to be contributed to the Community. "At least he's going in the right direction now," said the official.

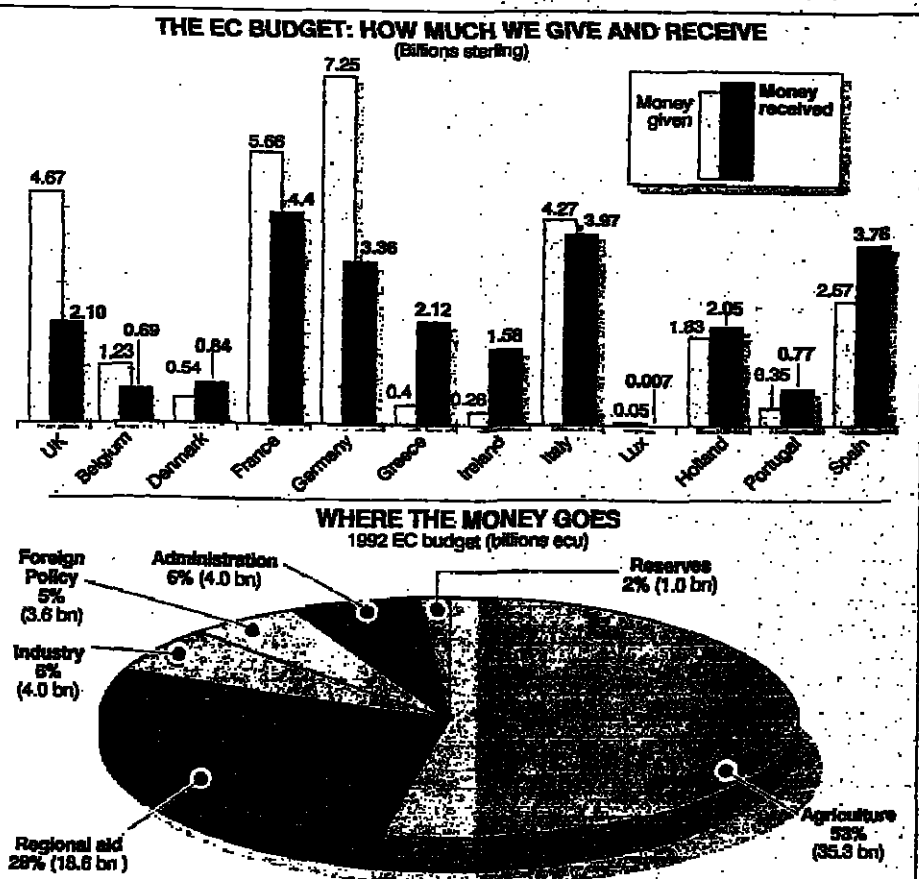
Ursula Seiler-Albring, German foreign affairs minister, was more forthright. "His revised figures are still too high and are hardly accept-

able." M Delors had wanted the EC's budget to rise to some £67 billion in 1997, but yesterday he conceded the figure should be nearer £61 billion. He proposed that the cohesion fund, which would have cost £7.7 billion in the five years to 1997, should cost £11.5 billion in the seven years to 1999.

Although the seven-year proposal appears to only increase costs, M Delors argued that decreased spending in other areas, notably agriculture, would reduce the overall budget towards the turn of the century. But his spending plans would still oblige member states to increase their annual contributions to Brussels to 1.32 per cent of gross domestic product. Britain and Germany want them kept to around their present level of 1.2 per cent. M Delors said that because of the recession, member states could not be expected to give more than 1.2 per cent of GDP to Brussels in 1993 and 1994.

M Delors appeared to hold fire on the vexed question of the British rebate, which this year will reduce the government's net contribution to Brussels by about £2 billion to around £2.6 billion. A Commission spokesman on budgetary affairs denied any potential trade-off involving the British rebate and the cohesion fund. "It's natural that Britain should only get a rebate on the bit of the budget that doesn't include the new fund," he said.

However, German was less accommodating. Frau Seiler-Albring said: "The question of the British rebate needs to be dealt with at the negotiating table."



Berlin honours men who wrought unity

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BERLIN

ON the third anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall yesterday, the city honoured the three men considered chiefly responsible for its unification and that of Germany. Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, and Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, were in the Reichstag to be made honorary citizens of the once divided city, a representative accepted the honour on behalf of Ronald Reagan, the former US president.

Three years ago the awards would have seemed to add lustre to gloriously successful careers: yesterday they looked like consolation prizes. This was most obvious in the case of Mr Gorbachev. A bare 200 yards from the Reichstag, gypsies, Poles and Caucasians gather daily at a street market to sell bits and pieces of the disintegrating Soviet army: binoculars, medals, uniforms and, more discreetly, weapons.

Germans, however, retain strong gratitude to Mr Gorbachev for having allowed the revolutions in Eastern Europe and the unification of Germany to proceed peacefully. Mr Reagan said in a message yesterday that "Mr Gorbachev is owed a great debt of gratitude by people around the world."

Several speakers recalled Mr Reagan's own words during his visit to Berlin in 1987: "Mr Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" But Mr Reagan's reputation, too, is not what it was: his economic legacy looks increasingly weak and George Bush, his chosen heir, has been defeated at the polls by a man who explicitly rejects Reaganite philosophy.

As for Herr Kohl, he is still praised for the determination with which he seized the chance of unification in 1990, but he is now under general attack for his failure at the time to set out how much it would cost. Many believe the only chance of getting west Germans to accept big sacrifices for east Germany was during the period of enthusiasm for unification, and that Herr Kohl lost it for the sake of party advantage.

Erich Honecker, the chief protagonist from the start to the end of the drama of the Berlin Wall, was absent yesterday, but not far away. He is in Moscow awaiting trial for giving the order to shoot people trying to escape to the West.

□ Bonn: Germany announced yesterday that it will pay hundreds of millions of marks to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who had previously received minimal payments or nothing. The finance ministry said that the Jewish Claims Conference would receive a total of DM975 million (£400 million) between next year and 1999. (Reuter)

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Collapse of talks brings Cambodia close to war

■ The notoriously brutal Khmer Rouge is making a nonsense of UN peacekeeping in Cambodia. The country is already splitting into communist and non-communist areas

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CAMBODIA is lurching into a resumption of civil war as the United Nations peace plan unravels by the day. The collapse of efforts in Peking leaves the UN with three equally unpalatable alternatives, none of which seems likely to rescue the situation in the medium term.

The negotiations had been aimed at bringing the communist Khmer Rouge back into full compliance with the UN peace plan. The Khmer Rouge, the strongest military element of the government in Phnom Penh, far from dis-

arming in advance of the elections due in May, has been launching aggressive military operations which the UN peace-keeping forces have been unable either to monitor or bring under control.

Significantly, Khmer Rouge representatives in Peking saw no senior Chinese government figures over the weekend. In the past the Chinese government has been the main political and military benefactor of the Khmer Rouge. But Khmer Rouge trade in Cambodian precious stones in recent months and a large stockpile of weaponry means that it is no longer dependent on Peking.

On the ground the Khmer Rouge has been refusing to allow UN peacekeepers into its zones and preventing its soldiers from being housed in special camps to take them out of the military equation. Already considerable numbers of troops from the other factions have been cantoned. In response only 44,000 of the government's 120,000 troops have been placed in the camps. The Khmer Rouge claims that there is a concerted campaign to discredit it.

In an indecipherable mark of Khmer Rouge ambitions the group recently blew up key bridges on Highways 6 and 21, effectively separating the northeast from the rest of the country. The Khmer Rouge already has the most influence in that part of the country and the destruction of the bridges amounts to almost a de facto partition of Cambodia into communist and non-communist regions.

The UN, which has until November 15 to decide on what to do next, faces a choice of going ahead with the elections in the face of an effective Khmer Rouge boycott, launching sanctions against the Khmer Rouge which would be virtually impossible to implement or meeting force with force as the Cambodian government has been trying.

In Peking Kieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, confirmed after the talks that "the process of the implementation of the Paris agreement is facing a deadlock". Ali Alatas, Indonesia's foreign minister, said: "Time is running out on the implementation of the Paris accords."

France and Indonesia co-chair the Paris peace conference and they must now make proposals to the security council on what should be done next. "It is true the Khmer Rouge is hostile to the continuation of the peace process," Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said. He and Mr Alatas promised that the peace process would continue, whether or not the Khmer Rouge co-operated.



Patten's reforms attacked

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong businessmen and professionals yesterday condemned constitutional reforms proposed by Chris Patten, the colony's governor, dismissing them as not worth the risk of conflict with China.

The 130-member Business and Professionals Federation went against public opinion to give a warning that businessmen would not want to risk building up executive, legislative and judicial structures which could be dismantled when the colony reverts to Chinese control in 1997.

Vincent Lo, a construction industry tycoon and the federation's chairman, said he hoped to meet Mr Patten next month to discuss his blueprint for greater democracy. The federation would work on alternative proposals, he said.

But other businessmen criticised the federation. Roger Thomas, of the Retail Trade Federation, described the group as an "unrepresentative splinter".

Mr Patten welcomed the federation's criticism, which he took as a sign that a debate on the issues could now begin. □ Taipei: Taiwan approved measures to increase civilian and economic contacts with China. Trade, immigration and banking are all areas to be opened up. (Reuters)



Travellers' rest: a nomadic trader relaxing yesterday with the last of his camels at the end of the annual cattle fair at Pushkar in Rajasthan, northwestern India. The fair, which features a camel race, attracted 100,000 desert people buying and selling camels under a full moon

Global strife blurs Clinton's economic focus

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton yesterday began his first full week of preparation for taking power amid warnings that urgent international problems could scupper his plans to focus like a "laser beam" on America's economic problems.

While the president-elect rested at the weekend, aides disclosed a series of steps designed to underline the priority Mr Clinton would give to economic revival. He would soon convene a summit of business leaders and economists in Little Rock, establish an economic security council with a status equal to that of the National Security Council,

and turn his attention to filling his administration's top economic posts before all others.

Exit polls from last Tuesday's election showed the economy was easily the electorate's top concern, with foreign affairs ranking the eighth of nine issues. Economic recovery was the centrepiece of Mr Clinton's campaign, but the Bush administration has for months neglected foreign problems because of the campaign and several are likely to require Mr Clinton's immediate attention after January 20.

There is the real possibility that the US will be in the midst of a trade war with the

European Community. Television scenes of starvation and extreme winter hardship may well have refocused the world's attention on the Bosnian crisis and Mr Clinton's campaign promise of more robust US intervention.

The Middle East peace talks have virtually stalled in the absence of US pressure, and the Arabs will be very suspicious of a pro-Israel Clinton administration. Russia is backing away from Boris Yeltsin's agreement with Mr Bush last June to destroy all its SS-18 intercontinental missiles. Turkey is threatening to stop the US from using its air

bases to enforce the air-exclusion zone over northern Iraq, and Saddam Hussein will undoubtedly have been emboldened by Mr Bush's defeat.

In the Far East the Khmer Rouge is threatening to destroy the United Nations peace plan in Cambodia; and in Africa Jonas Savimbi, the US-backed rebel leader, has revived the Angolan civil war.

The leading players in many of these dramas will be tempted to test Mr Clinton, and foreign affairs is his weakest suit. Last Wednesday, the day after his election, he sought to reassure the world and warn potential transgres-

sors by promising an "essential continuity" in American foreign policy.

The secretary of state is traditionally a new president's first appointment, but this year economic necessity dictates that those of treasury secretary, White House budget director and chief economic adviser may well take precedence.

Those appointees would almost certainly sit on the new economic security council along with the treasury and commerce secretaries and the US trade representative. The council's task would be to develop and co-ordinate Mr Clinton's plans for economic recovery.

Mr Clinton began yesterday with a dawn jog and a 40-minute workout before going to the Arkansas state capitol where he is preparing to transfer his gubernatorial powers to Jim Tucker, the state's lieutenant governor. Later he was meeting Al Gore, the vice president-elect, to work on transition plans.

White House aides are meanwhile suggesting that Mr Bush, returning from a long weekend at Camp David, should pardon Caspar Weinberger, the former defence secretary, and other Iran-Contra defendants before leaving office.

Mr Bush is said to be furious with Lawrence Walsh, the Iran-Contra special prosecutor, for releasing evidence five days before the election that contradicted his claim to have been "out of the loop" during the arms-for-hostages scandal. Bob Dole, the minority leader in the Senate, called for an investigation to determine whether Mr Walsh's action was politically motivated.

'X' marks a profitable spot of business

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

SPIKE Lee's £21-million movie *Malcolm X*, released next week in America, has spawned a range of merchandise that would make Batman envious.

The Malcolm X logo represents a fashion statement to some, a political statement to others and substantial profit to many. In the past few months "Xs" large and small have appeared on a vast range of products across the country, including baseball caps, T-shirts, badges, bumper stickers, air fresheners, board games and crisps. The proceeds from Malcolm X-related merchandise are expected to exceed \$100 million (£63 million) this year.

But the question of who should garner those profits has become almost as hotly contested as the ideological

legacy of Malcolm X himself, who was assassinated 27 years ago in New York's Audubon Ballroom.

Malcolm X's widow, Dr Betty Shabazz, has employed an Indianapolis management firm to protect the rights of the Malcolm X estate and prevent unlicensed manufacturers from using the X logo. The firm has already made deals with 37 licensees, sued four more for using the X symbol without permission and is in negotiation with Spike Lee over his use of the X logo on film merchandise. Both sides say they hope to settle the dispute without legal action.

Many followers and historians of Malcolm X say that entrepreneurs are cynically using his political and spiritual importance to churn out mere fashion accessories and



Malcolm X: an "icon" for young blacks

are perverting his message in the process. One range of badges, for example, shows Malcolm X brandishing an M16 automatic rifle, which some say contradicts his ideology of peaceful self-defence. A recent survey by

Newsweek magazine concluded that 84 per cent of young black Americans regard Malcolm X as a hero. On the other hand, only one in four blacks under the age of 24 knows any facts about the controversial civil rights activist or his political message.

Carl Rowan, the black columnist, wrote: "The whole Malcolm X phenomenon is a glaring, sometimes disarming, case of moviemakers and others revising history and making a man who had a dubious impact in life appear to be a towering social and political figure long after his death."

But some black civil rights leaders argue that Malcolm X has become an important icon for young blacks increasingly alienated by modern society.

Disease and deprivation fail to dampen spirit of veteran Bosnia refugee aged 11

FROM MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT IN POSUSTE

OLD Muslim women refugees, queuing up outside the makeshift toilets which guarantee them no dignity and no privacy, cried in shame and anger at their plight. But Jasmina, only 11 and a veteran of five months on the roads and in transit camps, never shed a tear. With her pretty, bright face, and shiny hair tied in a pony tail, she looked like a girl from a decent, caring home.

Yet her home is a crumbling, smelly, abandoned school converted into a refugee transit camp for the victims of Serb plunder in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. She shares her life with more than 700 Muslim refugees who sleep on mattresses crammed into unheated schoolrooms, corridors, landings and stairways.

The only place food can be cooked is in the gym, but the gym is not a place to go for a child still healthy and hopeful. About 400 refugees, with all their belongings, cover the floor of the gym and among them are people with hepatitis and abdominal typhus. Jasmina speaks confident English. "I don't go to the gym," she says, "so we just eat cold



food from tins given to us by the Red Cross." Posustje, a busy little town in Bosnia with a population of 4,000, is close to the border with Croatia. There are now 6,000 refugees here, mostly Muslim. Some have come from Jajce, taken by the Serbs about two weeks ago. But many of the people packed into the school came from Prijedor near Banja Luka in northern Bosnia. The Muslims in Prijedor were driven out and their homes ran-

sacked and burnt to the ground in May. Jasmina came from Prijedor. Her home was destroyed, her father, who owned a supermarket and was fought with the Bosnian army, was thrown into a concentration camp, an uncle was killed, and her school days came to an abrupt halt. Eight hundred men were killed in her home town.

She recalls how her Serbian school friends suddenly changed their attitude towards

her and began poking at her eyes and pulling her ears. She has not seen her father since he was taken away, although she, her mother and sister receive occasional letters from him. "I know he's still alive, that's all," she says. Still she remains cheerful.

Jasmina took us up to her room, once a place where children like her were given education, and introduced us to her room-mates, nine families, lying mattress to mattress in a 30ft by 30ft space. Her fellow refugees looked with little interest at yet another visit from the outside world. People come and look, but nothing is done.

Jasmina spent 20 days as a refugee in Travnik, now under Serbian artillery fire, and talks of her life like an adult confronting grown-up challenges. With a bit of coaching from her mother, she says her problems in order of priority are papers to give them a new life, money and clothing.

They want to live in Croatia but Croatian authorities do not want them. Hotels in Split accommodating refugees want them to go by summer, when holidaymakers from the European countries who have closed their doors to Bosnians start arriving.

Photograph, page 20

Serb leader outlines peace plan

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

RADOVAN Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, yesterday announced a new peace plan for the republic based on its partition along ethnic lines, an idea already rejected by international mediators.

In an uncompromising tone reflecting territorial gains in Bosnia by Serb forces, Mr Karadzic indicated his side would continue fighting if the seven-point plan was rejected, until one acceptable to all sides was forthcoming.

The plan, however, contains nothing substantially new. Drafted after the so-called war council met in Bijeljina in northeast Bosnia over the weekend, it contains seven points as preconditions for hostilities to end. Bosnian Serbs maintain that there are about 38,000 regular armed forces from Croatia fighting in Bosnia, a figure which the Croatian authorities contest.

The Serb plan calls for the Bosnian Muslim leadership to withdraw its declaration of war; the release of all civilians stranded in besieged towns; the separation of warring forces in Sarajevo; and the setting up of checkpoints controlled by the United Nations.

Muslims trapped in siege city spell out doomsday option

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TUZLA

WHEN the trapped inhabitants of this besieged Bosnian town consider their bleak future, most conversations turn invariably to the sprawling chemical plant located just west of the city centre.

Although there is nothing exceptional to see at the Polihem factory other than the standard smokestacks, pipelines, and storage tanks, there is little debate among Tuzla's population that the complex could one day decide the life or death of their community as they face the uncertain months of winter and renewed fighting.

Tuzla, located on a vulnerable finger of Bosnian-controlled territory, is surrounded on three sides by hostile Serbian positions. The one road which links it to the outside world, and along which all supplies must travel, is threatened with imminent closure either at the hands of the besieging Serbian forces or through the worsening weather.

Although British troops are supposed to guarantee that relief convoys of food and medicines are escorted safely to the city in the coming months, few expect enough assistance to reach Tuzla in time to avert a major humani-

tarian tragedy. Nevertheless, the mainly Muslim city, one of the last still controlled by the Bosnian government, is determined that it will never fall and still has one last desperate option available if it decides to make a final stand in the manner of the famous Jewish defenders of Masada, who committed mass suicide rather than fall to the besieging Roman legions.

In Tuzla's case, the doomsday option is concealed in the heart of the chemical factory where several containers of highly toxic chlorine gas are stored. The chemical is the basis of the lethal mustard gas, the persistent agent used with devastating effect in world war one and more recently by Iraqi forces in the war with Iran and against rebellious Kurdish civilians. "We know the strength of this weapon from an incident four years ago when a small leak developed in a pipeline that was carrying chlorine to a tanker," said Shaban Piric, a security official in the city. "The five workers conducting the operation were killed instantly and about half the city was evacuated in panic." The lethal effects of the gas, not to mention the psychological impact of a massive chlorine leak, has been

enough to convince the city's beleaguered military leaders that the chemical should be used as a deterrent and as a last-resort device to stop the Serbs capturing the city and turning its citizens into refugees.

"Two weeks ago when our forces were coming under sustained air and artillery bombardment at Brco and Gradaca, I ordered the chlorine containers loaded onto freight trains and moved up to the front. I warned the Serbs, and indeed the whole world, of the consequences if these containers were hit," said General Zeljko Knež, the commander of the Bosnian army's second corps responsible for defending Tuzla and the northern front of central Bosnia. "When the aerial attacks were halted we withdrew the containers."

□ Sarajevo: Croats fighting to expand territory they hold in southeast Bosnia claimed yesterday to have driven Serb forces back several miles in some battle zones. Croatian radio reported artillery and infantry duels had raged since Sunday between Croat and Serb fighters along the front line southeast of the Croat-held city of Mostar towards the Adriatic. (Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek ship seized in Liberia blockade

Monrovia: A Nigerian gunboat impounded a Greek bulk carrier off the rebel-held Liberian port of Buchanan — the first enforcement of a blockade declared by Liberia's West African neighbours. The 45,360-tonne Piraeus-registered *Konkara Pioneer* was escorted to Monrovia.

Buchanan, 50 miles east of the capital, is held by Charles Taylor, whose rebels are besieging Monrovia. The capital is defended by a Nigerian-led "military observer group" sent by the Economic Community of West African States, which agreed last Saturday to impose sanctions against rebels.

For the past two years Mr Taylor has been exporting iron ore, rubber, timber and other raw materials from ports he controls in eastern Liberia. Proceeds have been used in part to finance an offensive against Monrovia launched on October 15. (Reuters)

Rawlings wins

Accra: Ghana's electoral commission confirmed Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings as the winner of last week's presidential election, the first in the West African country for 13 years. He polled 58 per cent of the vote and his closest rival, Albert Adu Boahen, secured 30 per cent. (Reuters)

Arabs attack

Jerusalem: Pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon launched a cross-border rocket barrage to coincide with the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, promising to pursue the *jihad* (holy war) against Israel until all Hezbollah goals were met.

Strike staged

Buenos Aires: Cities and towns in Argentina were paralysed by a 24-hour general strike to protest against President Menem's economic policies. Transport links and the industrial sector were the worst hit in the strike, called after talks broke down.

Officers go free

Bangkok: Thailand's constitutional tribunal ruled that officers responsible for the killing of more than 50 anti-military protesters in Bangkok last May could not be prosecuted because of an amnesty abolishing the military, temporarily revoked by parliament last month.

Victims buried

Lusaka: Zambian soldiers buried cholera victims in mass graves as the death toll from a week-old epidemic passed 350. More than 2,000 cases have been reported, mainly in the copper-mining city of Kitwe. (AP)

Lethal cargo

Tokyo: Japan, facing a storm over shipping 1.7 tonnes of radioactive plutonium from France, said the vessel would stay 200 miles from other countries on its return journey. Australia has promised not to take action against the ship. (Reuters)

As the battle between parents, schools and councils over opting out grows more bitter, a political career is on the line, says Matthew d'Ancona

Putting Patten to the test

Poison seeps into debate

Just when John Major thought the supply of chickens coming home to roost had dried up, yet another settled on the roof of Number Ten last Friday. The prime minister's old school, Rutish High in Wimbledon, south London, voted resoundingly against opting out of local authority control, rejecting the central education policy of its most illustrious former pupil.

Official sparks flew over the weekend, as furious ministers and conservative educationists accused councils of lying to parents to keep schools under their wing. They promised tough action against local education authorities (LEAs) that tried to thwart the onward march of parental choice and the transition of 1,500 schools to the grant-maintained (GM) sector by 1994.

Like the long-running dispute at Stratford School, east London, where the head fought a long battle with a group of Asian governors, the row over Rutish and the conduct of Merton council has set the government's education policy in sharp focus and underscored the scale of the task facing John Patten, the education secretary. Yesterday, his education bill, the longest in parliamentary history, reached its second reading. Mr Patten, who will gain 44 new powers from the bill, promises that it will entrench a new framework for schools to last well into the next century, although officials accept privately that its passage to law will be long and turbulent.

While Parliament fights over the shape of the new bureaucracy for the grant-maintained sector, based on a powerful funding agency for schools, parents are already crossing swords over the ballot box. To date — after Skegness Grammar became the first school to opt out in 1989 — only 490 schools out of 25,000 have voted to follow but hundreds more will make up their minds this term and next. Seven times as many schools held a vote last month as did in October last year.

Bob Balchin, the chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, says: "The number of ballots is up and... more and more schools are opting out. It is clear that governing bodies wanted to get their new governors in place."

Parents and governors deferred decisions this year because of the general election and the expectation of legislation, he says. Others have been "quite frightened" by council scare stories about what opting out adds up to. Local authorities read the runes differently. A study published yesterday by Local Schools Information (LSI), the council-funded advisory service, said that the government's plan to coax most secondary schools into the grant-maintained sector by 1996 was wildly over-optimistic. Eighty five per cent of the 380 English secondary schools that have voted to opt out are clustered



Trend-setters: headmaster William John Webster and pupils of Skegness Grammar, the first school to opt out, in January 1989

in 36 authorities, with 62 per cent in 17 local authorities. Of the 380 "yes" votes, 227 are in Conservative-controlled areas.

LSI also complains that many schools have opted out to avoid closure or council reorganisation plans, making a mockery of the government's plan to reduce surplus places. But, according to Bob Lloyd, the headmaster of the grant-maintained Hendon School, in Barnet, one can make a virtue out of necessity.

"We were faced with reorganisation plans from the local authority which would have taken the school out of the community. This was strongly opposed. But at the same time we decided that opting out wasn't going to be done just to spite the local authority. We thought there were advantages to going GM."

Mr Lloyd, who is also the chair of the Association of Heads of Grant-Maintained Schools, says that the autonomy of GM status has enabled the school to make free choices. "We've been able to spend more money on books, materials and teachers and less on central

administration and bureaucracy." The academic merits of opting out are still in dispute, since inspectors have yet to publish a report on a GM school. The financial advantages are much clearer: under current arrangements, each opted out school with more than 200 pupils is given a transitional grant of £30,000 plus £30 per pupil, and a 15 per cent top-up on its regular funding to make up for the loss of central services.

But these bonuses are likely to dwindle as the GM sector grows and the squeeze on the public sector gets tougher. A new common funding formula is to be introduced by area from 1994, based on the existing standard spending assessment and administered by the funding agency.

Martin Rogers, the author of *Opting Out: Choice and the Future of Schools* (published tomorrow by Lawrence and Wishart, £8.99), and a co-ordinator of LSI, claims that the drive to opt out marks a covert return to selection

and a two or three-tier system. "Grant-maintained schools are now allowed to select 10 per cent of their pupils without seeking official approval, although I am confident that that will be challenged in the courts. Obviously, schools may move to become selective if they wish. But if we're going to have a return to grammar schools, let's have it out in the open."

Mr Rogers says that heads of GM schools are already anxious that the proposed bureaucracy will centralise the education service and threaten their newly-won freedoms. "What one is concerned about is that the effect is not to reduce that autonomy. We don't want the bureaucracy of the local authority to be replaced by the bureaucracy of the funding agency."

Some radical educationists are calling upon the education secretary to dispense with the red tape of the parental ballot and force schools to become self-governing. But this he has promised he will never do. Like the future of the education service, Mr Patten's political career now rests in the hands of his customers.

HOW TO OPT OUT

1. Governors agree to hold a parental ballot at two separate meetings (the education bill will remove the need for a second governors' vote) or parents of 20 per cent of pupils sign a petition requesting one.
2. The ballot is supervised by the Electoral Reform Society. At least half of eligible parents must vote for the ballot to be valid. If not, a second ballot is held which is decisive (irrespective of turn-out).
3. If the vote is yes, the governors must publish proposals within six months, explaining how the school would be run if it became grant-maintained and when they would like to opt out.
4. The education bill will allow a school to apply for a change of character at the same time — for example, to become selective.
5. The education secretary receives the application and must allow two months for consultation before making a decision.

Ivan Chaplin, the head teacher of Hanson School, in Bradford, expected a fierce debate when his governors voted to opt out of local authority control. But he did not realise how far opponents of the move would go.

Before the school's parents had held their ballot, there had been allegations of misinformation. Mr Chaplin had been described as "power mad" in the local press, and had received abusive letters.

The composition of the governing body had also been changed. A long-standing convention that the political nominees on school governing bodies would reflect the parties' share of the vote in ward elections was overturned in the summer. The switch deprived Hanson of a Conservative nominee, but did not prevent the governors from supporting a move to opt out, despite heavy pressure from council officials.

Hanson was one of three Bradford schools voting to opt out this term. Malcolm Walters, who chairs the education committee, publicly described the three heads as "power maniacs", while Tom Flanagan, the leader of the council, made comparisons with Nazi Germany in a letter on the subject of opting out. Mr Chaplin was accused of misleading parents on the effects of grant-maintained status.

Councillor Walters complained yesterday that opponents had been denied access to the school's internal mail to put their point of view, and the authority was refused a speaker at the main parents' meeting. He said that changes to the composition of governing bodies were routine, and unconnected with the issue of opting out.

Mr Chaplin, who is in his fourth year as head of the 1,350-pupil comprehensive school, says that he had not initiated the move to opt out, which had been taken for educational, rather than ideological, reasons. A majority of governors wanted greater freedom.

"The authority has every right to express a view, but I think it is disgraceful that an employer would seek to cast personal criticism and abuse on one of its own employees," Mr Chaplin says. "I think it is sad that this ended up as a personal thing. I did not at any stage make personal comments about councillors or officers of the authority."

Two-thirds of parents voting in Hanson's ballot last month supported the proposal to opt out. The

school is now waiting for approval from John Patten, the education secretary, as are Thornton School and Oakbank School, in Keighley, the other Bradford schools involved in the dispute.

Bob Balchin, the chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, says: "Since the publication of the White Paper, we have seen a stepping up of intimidatory tactics by local authorities in other parts of the country because, I suspect, they are like turkeys who have been told the date of Christmas. There has been more misleading literature and harassment of heads but, fortunately, we are finding that parents are not always taken in."

The foundation does not accuse Bradford of intimidation, but elsewhere it says that opponents of grant-maintained status have claimed that schools will lose money by opting out, impose selection or lose staff.

Mr Balchin said the government had guaranteed that no school would lose out financially, under grant-maintained status, no school had yet become selective after opting out, and 99 per cent of staff had stayed on.

Some heads are still reluctant to discuss the intimidation they faced during opting-out. One in Nottinghamshire, where parents eventually voted for grant-maintained status, received threatening phone calls and had to ask police to clear pickets from outside the school.

Another, in the West Midlands, was refused permission by the Labour-appointed chairman of governors to hold meetings of parents on school premises. The foundation claims that parents were denied access to crucial information on opting out, which was subsequently rejected in a ballot.

Mr Patten warned opponents of opting out last week that he would take strong action against local authorities in cases of intimidation or harassment. More details may be announced this week, as the education bill begins its passage through Parliament.

Leaders of Labour education authorities agreed in May not to adopt a hostile attitude to opting-out schools. A party spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are opposed to opting out but we would not approve of any form of harassment. Those opposed to opting out are surely entitled to campaign vigorously, but no more than that."

JOHN O'LEARY



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Fab! Groovy! Those naff covers are hits again

Nostalgia — and recession — brings a revival in 1970s LPs

You can see them peering out of cardboard boxes in every charity shop; pouting dolly birds in mauve and orange tank-tops, platform shoes and hot pants, still doing their best to persuade you to buy *Top of the Pops* Vol. 53 or *Hot Hits* 14. In the 1970s these legwarmed lovelies ruled the record racks in Woolworth's, luring punters into parting with 59p for session musicians' stubs at the previous week's chart singles.

Today's recession has led to a revival of interest in these long-playing oddities. Connoisseurs sift through bargain selections at record fairs and Oxfam shops, and a small but enthusiastic fan club (The Naff Record Club, membership £1, motto: You Get What You Pay For) was recently formed. One of the founders, musician Rod Hancock, says that the recession has coaxed many collectors out of the closet. "It's no longer embarrassing to admit you like *Hot Hits* LPs. You can pick them up at car-boot sales for as little as 20p each. Compare that with £13 for a new CD, and tell me who has the last laugh," he says.

Ben Darnott, the owner of Ben's Collectors' Records in Farnham, Surrey, sells dozens of second-hand budget albums each week at 25p a time. "A lot of my customers are students from the art college round the corner. They know the music's awful, but in a funny way it's quite trendy. Some use the sleeves to decorate their walls," he says. While one or two enthusiasts are, by Ben's admission, "one

mallet short of a croquet set", others include perfectly sane pensioners on tight budgets. "I've got one regular who is 75 and buys old *Top of the Pops* records. Anything will sell if it's at the right price," he says. "A lot of today's music is very serious; you just don't get fun bands like Showaddywaddy any more." The music is not all that appeals. Many 1970s fashions, such as hot pants, loons, and flares, have made a comeback, and old album covers provide useful source material for today's fashion students and designers. Take *Hot Hits* 2, from 1970. The cover features a trim redhead in clinging floral ruit dress and matching knee-length boots, lolling against a Ford Capri. The camera angle will be familiar to gynaecologists.

A busty blonde in boxing gloves, painfully snug shorts and a T-shirt graces the cover of *Hot Hits* Round 8 (1971). Tracks include "Johnny Reggae", and "Banks Of The Ohio". *Top Of The Pops* Vol 49 (1975) shows a blonde in knitted bikini and matching bobble hat, while another compilation from the same year has a model hitching up her T-shirt, as if displaying an appendix scar.

The pouting cover girls, hair apparently held in place with aircraft modellers' glue, made small fortunes for budget labels like Pickwick, Windmill and Darnott throughout the 1970s, when compilations of cover versions — dashed off in a weekend by insomniac session men — sold in such

quantities they began chart topping in their own right. Girls posed in boob tubes, Biba chokers and hot pants, licked lollipops, leered at the camera, aired their armpits or undid their buttons. One week it was cut-off jeans, silver belts and stack heels, the next it was coral necklaces, bow ties, and washed out denim.

The cover girl was the sales inspiration of Pickwick Records' founder, Monty Lewis. Pickwick's present general

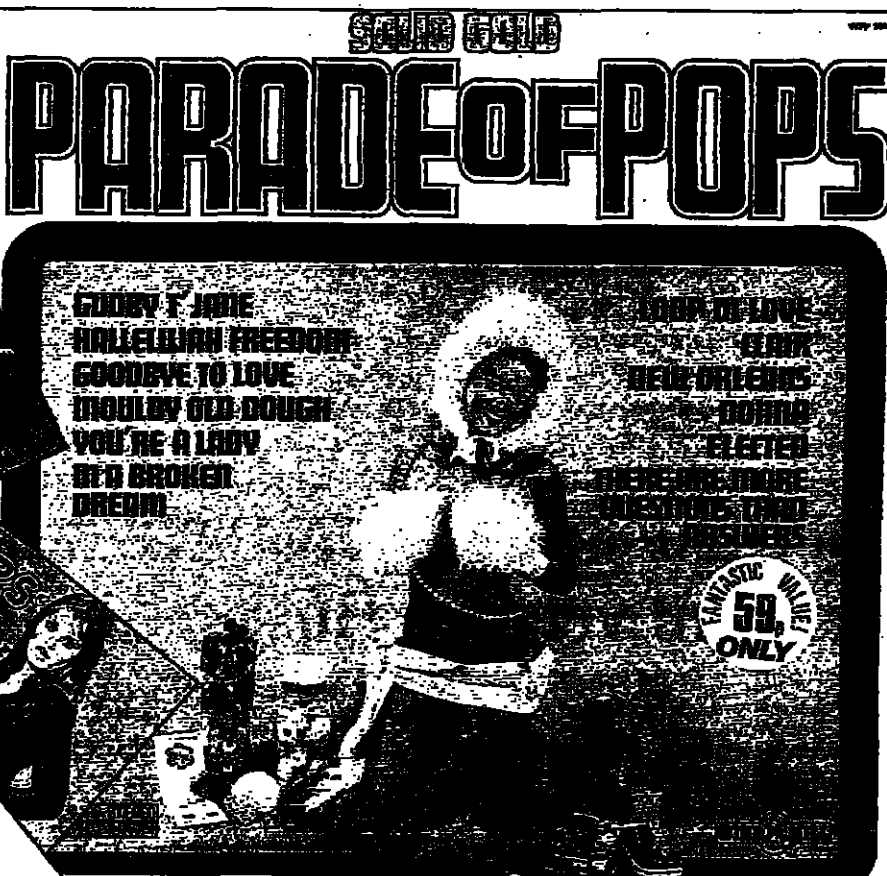
manager, Rex Crosskey, also admits a share of the blame. "The cover photos came from a guy in Soho called George Harrison Marks. Most of them were of his wife in a wig. She had a fair figure and didn't mind wearing leopard skin," he says. The guff on the back ("It's popperrrrrr! It's singasational! It's another groovy volume from the Pickwick people!") came from the commercial manager, Harry Jung.

The company's sales manager at the time, Alan Friedlander, had struck a deal with Woolworth's in the early 1960s to test market a budget LP featuring a dozen top-ten singles, re-recorded by session musicians. Pickwick, never looked back. The *Top Of The Pops* series was a runaway success, spawning imitations like *Music For Pleasure*. Each disc took three weeks from song selection to shop.

The high point was in 1974, when *Top Of The Pops* Vol 40 (including "Kung Fu Fighting", "Love Me For A Reason" and "Viva España") sold 410,000 copies in a month. A new *Top Of The Pops* album appeared every eight weeks. Mr Crosskey's biggest regret was failing to find a credible Elvis Presley soundalike; his greatest triumph was having the sheer neck to attempt to copy Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". The session musicians often moonlighted from established bands. An early keyboard player was one Reg Dwight, who later changed his name to Elton John.

By the early 1980s the cover girls' poses were verging on the pornographic in a bid to revive flagging sales, but it was the arrival of K-Tel's as-seen-on-TV original-artist compilations which was the final nail in the coffin. The last *Top Of The Pops* was Volume 92 in 1985, with Samantha Fox on the cover. It flopped. Mr Crosskey looks back with affection. "At the time we did very nicely, thank you." Today, a new generation's tongue-in-cheek enthusiasm is saving budget discs from ending the century in a skip.

TIM HARRISON



Hot hits and hot pants: album covers from the 1970s offer source material for design and fashion students — "they know the music is awful but in a funny way it is quite trendy"

Behind the bedside manner

How do medical students learn to cope with the emotional burden of a patient's suffering?

Susan Spindler finds out

Sarah Holdsworth was taking part in a ward round when she saw her first death. The crocodile of doctors, nurses and students arrived at the bed of a five-year-old girl with serious injuries who had been admitted the previous day after a car accident. Now she lay in an intensive care cubicle, attached by tubes and wires to a bank of monitors and support systems. As the consultant discussed her case with the medical team, one of the alarms began to ring.

"The bell meant her blood pressure was very low, and they began to check other things," Miss Holdsworth says. "Then the heart monitor alarm went off and I wondered what was happening. Suddenly everyone began to dismantle the monitors and remove the ventilator; the atmosphere was calm and matter-of-fact."

"I turned to the student next to me and said: 'I think maybe this person has stopped being alive.' But nobody else said anything. Eventually I said: 'Is she dead?' and they said 'yes'. The consultant went to inform the parents, who were in a nearby room, and suddenly the corridor was filled with terrible wailing."

The rest of the team were used to death on the ward and immediately moved on to visit another patient. But Miss Holdsworth, 21 and newly arrived, was too distraught to join them. "I was terribly shocked. I didn't know what to do. I kept thinking how much joy she must have brought to her parents' lives and how much they were going to miss her. I wanted to go away and cry but I went and sat on my own for a bit to get myself under control."

Few adults today have seen much of death close to. Death is left to the doctors. They deal with the grim practicalities of the labour room and the operating theatre, they abort our fetuses and certify our corpses. We also expect them to handle our pain, fear and grief. How are they trained to cope with their role as our emotional dustbins?

Every year in Britain about 4,000 18-year-olds enter medical school to embark on five years' training. In most schools, the first two years are spent studying basic medical sciences in lecture theatres and laboratories. Students might cut up a corpse, but only in their third year are they let loose on live patients. At 21 they find themselves catapulted into the hospital wards, and the next three years provide a crash course in life and death.

At St Mary's Hospital Medical School, in west London, the ten students followed throughout their training for the current BBC2 series *Doctors To Be*, were given short white jackets when they graduated to the wards. This uniform was designed to set them apart from qualified doctors (who wear long coats), but it also underlined the ambiguity of their status. Now licensed to break taboos, they could ask



A stitch in time: Fey Probst, one of the students whose progress is monitored in the BBC series, *Doctors To Be*, attends to a patient's hand

complete strangers imperious questions, perform intimate examinations on them, even help render them unconscious and slice open their bodies. Yet they were still medical novices, who lacked even the basic knowledge to take down a patient's history and make a diagnosis.

According to Dr Chris McManus, who teaches at St Mary's, students at this stage have to tread a difficult path. "They are slowly moving from being ignorant members of the public to being members of the medical clan with all the inside information. They are half-way there, which is a dangerous position, and they feel under a lot of pressure."

The maternity wards and clinics, where students spend six weeks learning about childbirth, offer a rare opportunity to play a leading role in a medical event. Every student has to deliver several babies before he or she can qualify. All deliveries are supervised by midwives or qualified doctors, but the students have to take command of an emotionally charged event and guide women through the uncharted territory of childbirth. It requires confidence and maturity beyond their years.

Nick Hollings, a student who came to St Mary's from a boys' public school, found his first delivery excruciatingly embarrassing. "You feel very gauche walking up to a person you've never met before and saying at a very intimate point, 'Come on, push this baby out, really try hard.' And when the woman is in pain, you don't

really know where to put yourself."

The drama of a labour room forces students to overcome their inhibitions, and Mr Hollings soon developed an impressive authority and won the confidence of patients. But in the process he became emotionally injured to childbirth.

Growing an extra skin is a vital part of medical training. Doctors have to bear more reality than most of us but they cannot function if they empathise too much with their patients.

During her first weeks on the wards at St Mary's, Dong Chiu, a Malaysian student, found herself in the department of geriatrics, dealing with many distressed and disturbed patients. At first she tried to form relationships with them, but when one man became dependent on her and began to follow her around the hospital she found she could not cope. She became depressed and cried regularly. "I have to learn to control myself," she said at the time, "to realise that this is work and not let it affect me emotionally."

Six months later Miss Chiu felt she had overcome the problem, becoming a harder person in the process. "I've changed," she says. "I wouldn't sit and cry about a sad case now. I feel myself beginning to separate patients from persons — people in hospital don't seem quite human anymore."

Perhaps the most emotionally gruelling episode for St Mary's students was an afternoon spent learning about termination of pregnancy. This teaching session was not

compulsory but most students went, in small groups, to learn about the issues surrounding abortion and to watch a series of late terminations being performed. They learnt about the circumstances which led to abortion beyond the eighteenth week of pregnancy and they watched the surgeon carrying out a complex operation which involved dividing the foetus into pieces small enough to be removed through the patient's uterus.

John Shephard, a mature student, found the experience traumatic. "The consultant said it would be unpleasant and he was right. It was the most stressful time so far."

Students bruised by painful encounters with patients or upsetting surgical procedures sometimes had nowhere to turn. Jane Morris commented in her third year at St Mary's: "You see terrible things that hit you very hard and there is nobody within the hospital you can talk to. I'm lucky to have people outside who will listen to me when I'm upset."

As the group followed by their training, the gap between them and their patients widened. They began to develop a professional manner, still friendly but emotionally reserved, and greater experience enabled them to protect themselves more effectively from the suffering they saw every day. But they continued to feel under pressure.

Little wonder. During their five years at medical school only one afternoon was devoted to discussion of the stresses suffered by students. This seminar, designed to help them

look after themselves, invited participants to pool experiences. The course tutor, Dr Derek Chase, gave some sobering statistics reflecting the impact of stress on doctors' lives. Male doctors were three times more likely than any other professional group to get divorced, become alcoholic or commit suicide. Among women, divorce and suicide were seven times more likely.

"We are a pretty sick bunch in medicine," he said. "Life is going to be tough for you and somebody has to be the statistic. In order to deal with the quagmire you are in, you have to look after yourselves."

● The author is the producer of the fourth programme in the *Doctors To Be* series "Matters of Life and Death", which will be shown on BBC2 on Monday November 16.

Something of a diversion

I know of a man who used to do sums for the Arts Council: he now markets 70,000 free range eggs a week. I've heard of a midwife who after 12 years of delivering babies retrained as a barrister. Tales abound of somethings-in-the-City who now do something completely different, such as the merchant banker who has moved into mail order dungarees.

Everyone, it seems, is doing it. So if, in your youth, you counted your buttons or cherry stones and are wondering why you didn't become a successful tinker or tailor as foretold, do not be surprised. (You may further wonder why there seem to be more beggar men and thieves...) More to the point is the discovery that fewer and fewer people who selected certain career paths are ending their journeys in the line of work in which they began.

Patterns of work have changed for us all. Instead of working for one master we may anticipate many masters, or even master-minding our own working lives. People are switching careers, not solely because of recession and redundancy, although those are often the trigger, but because they choose to. Medicine, education, accountancy or retail become a well ridden bicycle, and we workers are positively seeking new circuits to pedal around.

Women have already discovered the double challenge of twin careers, exchanging housewife-and-mother-of-two for a life that couples maternity with management. Now, men are also exploring a disparate range of jobs for the boys. Instead of a vertical ladder from post room to place on the director's floor, many step off to start an ascent in totally unrelated fields.

Many are opting to do what they did for a large organisation, for themselves. They exchange a daily journey to corporate offices for spare room or kitchen table. Admittedly, some tumble to the thought when their company "streamlines" them out of a job; others find that they can still do the job by making their employers redundant.

Andrew James, publisher of a new magazine, *Home Run*, dedicated to the interests of those working from home, reckons the market is growing. "We estimate that over a



DAVINA LLOYD

million people are now operating from home," he says. "There is a new kind of mindset in which people expect to change their careers. I look forward to a time when we'll all have the opportunity to work in at least three different careers during our working lives."

What will you be when you grow up? Is the standard question young people are asked. How can they possibly answer? They might as well count buttons. Yet children are not limited by our old thinking about following forefathers into the family business. Jobs on offer span worlds uninvented when we had our appointment with the careers master: new crisp-flavour taster, virtual reality game tester, professional studio audience member for games shows, careers retraining adviser.

I find myself in sympathy with Mrs Crocodile in Martin Honeysett's *Animal Nonsense Rhymes*, bewildered by her offspring's plans to be "a model... perhaps an airline stewardess, or even a long distance swimmer."

"Well I never!" Her mother exclaimed.

"You've so many things to choose."

"When I was a girl there was only one choice."

"You became either hand bags or shoes."

Hope for us all. Not to be limited to one line of endeavour, but to accumulate transferable skills: not to look back with regret at jobs we always had a secret yearning to attempt, but to have the courage to take the leap. Not to be burdened by handbags of old practice, but to see if the new shoe fits.

Aluminium on trial: jury divided

IS ALUMINIUM, an element ubiquitous in nature, implicated in Alzheimer's disease? Experts are divided.

Almost everybody uses aluminium saucepans, and ordinary airborne dust contains substantial amounts of the metal. It is also used in water purification, indigestion tablets and toiletries, and it turns up a good deal in food. We are all exposed to large amounts of aluminium every day: it is the second most common metal in nature.

Alzheimer's disease is also common. It now affects some 500,000 people in Britain, and as the population ages incidence is expected to increase. While nobody claims that it is the sole cause, deciding whether aluminium is a factor in the disease is vital.

Last week, Oxford scientists reported the result of three years' work, using a new analytical technique, which casts doubt on the link. They said they had been unable to identify aluminium in the neuritic plaques found in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers. If they are right, we can all breathe more easily. But are they? Several pieces of evidence point in the other direction.

● There is a weak but statistically significant relation between the amount of aluminium in water supplies and the incidence of the disease. In one Norwegian study, people living in the areas of

Bottom line

The debate over causes of Alzheimer's disease continues

highest aluminium concentrations were 1.48 times as likely to die from senile dementia as those living in the areas of lowest concentrations.

● Gold miners in northern Ontario who breathed high concentrations of aluminium oxide showed a greater tendency to suffer cognitive disorders than a control group not exposed to the same material.

● The rate of deterioration in Alzheimer's patients, some studies have shown, can be slowed by giving them drugs that affect the rate of uptake of aluminium by the brain.

● Animal experiments at the State University of New York indicate that rats whose drinking water was dosed with high levels of aluminium and fluoride developed the minging stride of senile animals, in contrast to the long and regular pace of animals in their prime. Some rats could no longer tell the difference between the scent of banana — their favourite — and lemon.

● The negative results found by the Oxford workers have to be set against other studies that have found aluminium in the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers. Frank Wait and colleagues, at the Oxford Nuclear Physics Laboratory, suggest that accidental contamination of the stains used by previous investigators has influenced their results. The Oxford method, nuclear microscopy, involved no stains and found no aluminium.

● But there are doubts whether the Oxford method is sensitive enough, and Professor Jim Edmondson, of Newcastle University, remains unconvinced. He said last week that he thought the aluminium thesis had not been undermined by the latest work.

● Dr Ruth Itzhaki, of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, says it is "incredibly difficult" to prove or disprove the relationship. The closure of a vital facility at Daresbury Laboratory, near Warrington, will, she says, make it impossible to continue experiments using aluminium isotopes to trace the fate of the metal in the body, one of the best experimental approaches. So what is her advice? "I avoid using aluminium pans with anything highly acidic, like fruit or marmalade," she says.

NIGEL HAWKES

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Lynne Truss

For those who fear the festivities, it is never too early to start worrying about Christmas

The announcement of the Princess of Wales's controversial Christmas holiday plans contained an important sub-text, I thought, which somehow got ignored in the usual flurry of pecking and stripping to the bone when the vultures descended. "You are blind!" I shouted at nobody in particular, as I pawed through my heap of tabloids. I mean, of course, yes, Diana's decision to spend Christmas away from the royal in-laws has "fuelled speculation" (yawn). And yes, too, it has encouraged sentimental visions of Christmas Future at Sandringham, with the royal family casting sad-eyed Crichton-like glances at the forlorn little wooden stool on which the princess formerly sat. But in the rush for that 4-star speculation-fuel, nobody noticed that in terms of universal yuletide family politics, Diana had achieved a tremendous coup. She had really caught them on the hop. To announce your Christmas plans in the first week of November is the mark of a brilliant tactician, family-wise. Wow. They can't possibly have been prepared for it. What she did was the equivalent of winning the race while her competitors were still indoors lacing up their pinstripes.

Christmas is an awful thing, in my book. Ding Dong Merrily has little to do with it; and there is a limit to the number of times you can pretend not to know the ending of *Superman II*. Sometimes I sit back and imagine that Christmas will really be cancelled this year, and the idea fills me with wide-eyed excitement. So I envy the princess her determined effort to avoid the tidal pull of the family Christmas, and I would emulate her like a shot ("Off to Morocco, sorry!") if I did not suffer currently from "denial". You know that you can be "in denial" about bereavement or alcoholism? Well, I have a theory that you can also be "in denial" about Christmas, which makes it ultimately more dangerous.

Denial lasts a long, long time. You can recognise people in denial because we stand aghast in department stores and sootily loudly "Hell's bells, not crackers already!" (leaving other shoppers to interpret this outburst as they will). Out of every magazine you pick up, there slithers a heavy catalogue of ingenious Christmas gifts, which you stare at incomprehensibly. What's this, you say, a pair of slippers with headlights built in? If this is Christmas, you declare, you will have no part of it.

But mixed with this denial is guilt, of course, because one can't help noticing that other people have "started". It is somehow awful to hear, "Have you started yet?" they say, sort of casually. "No, it's only November. Ha ha. You?" "Mmm. Three weeks ago." "Oh."

Meanwhile relations start mentioning casually on the phone the lovely present they bought you while on holiday in July, the news of which makes you feel strangely weightless. Presumably there are people in the world on whom this sort of moral blackmail makes no impression, but personally I allow it to flood me with feelings of inadequacy, year after year. And this, I might add, despite my certain knowledge, borne of dismally consistent experience, that the much-vaunted holiday present will turn out on Christmas morning to be a small box of fudge or a red plastic ball-point with my name on it.

Anyway, to return to the theory of stages, this powerful guilt phase finally propels you into an eruption of frantic activity, then a brief spell of euphoria, closely followed by let-down, anger, and finally blank exhaustion. And that's it. Another consumer Christmas, another absolutely pointless exercise, which you knew you didn't want to get involved in from the start. This is what I hate about Christmas, that while I object to it very loudly, and can see with painful clarity that it is a form of mass hysteria, I always end up participating anyway, and going the whole hog. We all do. Any form of protest — principled refusal to buy cheese footballs, for example — is feeble and simply makes you look mean.

The idea, therefore, of the princess stating her intentions so clearly and forcibly in regard to the Sandringham three-line whip is really quite inspiring. Based on no evidence whatsoever, I shall assume, too, that when her Aunt Margaret pops her coat on and announces her intention of getting "started", Diana will snap "Well just don't get me a box of fudge like last year." — something I have always wanted to say, Diana, but fear I never shall.

This week's Autumn Statement may test the loyalty of Tory backbenchers to the limit, says Peter Riddell

A question of confidence

After the phoney war, now comes the main battle. Last week's excitement in the Commons may have seemed real enough to MPs — and were certainly dramatic — but they were merely a preparation for the main test this week over the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

It is a measure of the difficulty of the decisions which the cabinet has had to face that Norman Lamont and Michael Portillo are holding an unprecedented series of meetings with Tory MPs to explain the need for what are likely to be some highly contentious measures on Thursday. Such consultations are normally held after the statement, but this year — and particularly following the shambles over pit closures — ministers believe it is necessary to soften up MPs beforehand.

The speed and strength of economic recovery will ultimately determine whether the government and John Major can re-establish their authority. For most voters the economy is much more significant than the fate of the Maastricht treaty. While the most public split within the Tory party has been over Maastricht, the core of the government's difficulties has been the economy — the dis-

appointment of hopes that a Tory election victory would be followed by recovery, the subsequent deterioration in economic prospects and this autumn's wave of redundancies.

Ministers have not so far been able to offer a coherent answer. The forced withdrawal of sterling from the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16 did not just knock away the central pillar of the government's strategy. It also left ministers looking confused and incoherent for several weeks. Mr Lamont has tried his best to put forward an alternative approach, though few in the City or at Westminster believe he is likely to remain as Chancellor for long. He has become the scapegoat for errors made largely before he became Chancellor.

It was not until a month after Black Wednesday, following a runabout Tory conference and the climb down over pit closures, that the cabinet collectively held a full discussion of the political implications. One minister said: "It took us a long time to face up to what hap-

pened." Ministers complained that the government was sounding too defensive, and that the public, as well as Tory MPs, needed to be offered some hope of a way out of the gloom.

That discussion was followed by Mr Major's sudden unveiling three weeks ago of a new strategy for recovery and growth. The announcement, significantly by the prime minister rather than the Chancellor, caught the Treasury off balance and it has been busy trying to catch up ever since.

No one is yet clear what such a strategy means in practice. Some Eurosceptics expect a shift towards lower interest rates to boost growth. Others, mainly the cabinet members who favour re-entry into the ERM, have highlighted the relaxation in monetary policy which has already occurred as a result of the big devaluation and the two point cut in interest rates since September 16. They emphasise the need not to jeopardise low inflation.

The argument at present is mainly one of emphasis since re-

entry to the ERM will not occur at least until, after the Maastricht treaty has been ratified, while in the short-term there is likely to be room for further cuts in interest rates. Mr Major has also talked of specific measures to help industry, the protection of capital projects and a relaxation of the rules restricting private sector involvement in public infrastructure investment.

That will no doubt earn a few cheers on Thursday. They will be needed since much of the rest of Mr Lamont's statement will be uncomfortable. The cabinet's decision in late July to stick to the existing public spending limits for next year was always going to be difficult in view of the need to accommodate the costs of the faster than expected rise in unemployment. Now, after a further deterioration in the economic outlook, the squeeze looks like being even tighter. Although the plans imply a rise in spending in real terms, there will be very small increases, even cuts, for many programmes.

Public sector pay bills will rise by much less than the inflation rate, changes in the uprating of social security benefits and the defence budget will be cut again. The danger for Mr Lamont is that the bad news will dominate the next day's headlines rather than the more positive measures.

The justification will be that a tight fiscal policy, a more relaxed monetary policy and aid for industry will raise hopes of growth. That, and the big jump in public borrowing up to near the levels of the mid-1970s, is what has persuaded the cabinet to go along. One senior minister, a member of the EDX committee which prepared the options for the full cabinet, said that the exercise ensured that all ministers accepted the need for a tight fiscal policy. This is unlikely, say, the tough 1981 Budget when the leading "wags" did not learn of the contents until the day of the statement.

Tory whips will also remind MPs of the general support they gave to a tough line on public spending, and especially public

sector pay, at a meeting of the backbench finance committee shortly after Black Wednesday. The signs are that, after the traumas of last Wednesday, Tory MPs will not want to rebel again. Greater difficulties may come later in the winter when specific measures on social security and the like have to be approved by the Commons. Trouble is highly likely, for instance, over the council tax when the Commons debates grants to local authorities.

But Thursday's statement is only the first stage. The second will come in the spring Budget when the main tax changes are announced. A tough fiscal policy will continue to be needed because of the increases in spending announced ahead of the election. A third of the rise in borrowing has nothing to do with the automatic impact of the recession, and this underlying or structural deficit will have to be addressed at some stage.

No wonder ministers are resigned to a rough 18 months, with setbacks in local elections and by-elections. It will take time to reverse the impact of the pre-election errors in economic policy. Mr Major has the support of his cabinet. But he has not yet regained the confidence of his parliamentary party.

Demonstration of shame

When German politicians arrange mass rallies they should remember the brutal rise of the Nazis, writes Janet Daley

You would have thought that the Germans would have learnt their lesson about mass rallies. But no. Having expressed a righteous fear that extremism was again on the rise in their midst, they staged an official event which offered a perfect venue for exhibitionist fanatics.

What message could possibly have been intended to the rest of the world, most particularly those bits of it which are being encouraged to fuse their political futures with Germany? That the enterprise backed up so spectacularly in publicity terms was predictable enough. The fact that the saboteurs came from the far left is only mildly surprising and scarcely less alarming than if the neo-Nazis themselves had arrived for a rampage.

Why no less alarming, you ask. After all, at least the anarchists who were throwing missiles were not racists. Their sympathies were with the immigrant victims who, they felt, were being badly served by the government of Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. What they shouted, as they pelled their political leaders with missiles, was "Hypocrite, hypocrite!", which must be preferable to "Send them back". What makes their agitation so disturbing is that, as Germany learnt in the thirties, there is nothing quite like the street fighting of political factions to make authoritarian government look attractive.

If this ill-conceived demonstration was intended to be a statement of the German government's determination to stamp out xenophobia, then those who disrupted it had at least some kind of logic on their side. Chancellor Kohl was shamefully tardy in his condemnation of the violence against immigrants and not enough political pressure seems to be being put on the police to control it. Most critically, the chancellor is known to be in favour of amending Germany's

asylum laws which are among the most liberal in the world.

But was Sunday's demonstration about Germany's immigration policy? Or was it about the threat to democracy which is presented by all mob violence, of which racist attacks are only one species? If, as many of the official spokesmen implied, the point was to reaffirm Germany's commitment to tolerance and reason, then the collapse into shambles was utterly self-defeating. (But not unilluminating: perhaps no amount of self-flagellation can make people reasonable.)

Because we are talking about a demonstration rather than a text which may be carefully examined, it is quite impossible to know definitively what it was about. Public manifestations (which is what the French call them) are necessarily imprecise, incoherent and unstable. As instruments of political expression, they have the most limited conceivable use: to protest against a particular policy such as the closing of the coal pits, or the arrest of dissidents, perhaps.

To articulate anything more universal, they are profoundly dangerous: prey to every sort of demagoguery and adventurist opportunism. Which is a truth, as I pointed out at the start, which Germany of all countries should know.

In attempting to sort out the tangled themes which have been confounded rather than illuminated by this amorphous display of good intentions, we must look carefully at what its organisers said (or tried to say, above the mêlée). President von Weizsäcker recalling the Kristallnacht, said: "We must never again allow German democracy to be brought into question." But he also said: "The purpose of this demonstration is to stir people up." Is there something peculiarly German about the notion that the way to defend democracy is to drag a huge mob of people out on to the streets and "stir them up"?



Fear of anarchy: Hitler organised regimented Nazi rallies in place of street fighting protests

Alas for our own prejudices, there is not. Encouraging people to parade their more febrile sentiments in public is a notion

which has always been associated with totalitarian political beliefs. The adoption of it as an instrument of democratic protest came in the sixties when, for

some inscrutable historical reason, the connection between dogmatic ideology and terror was temporarily forgotten. The mass demonstration has now

become a fixture of respectable liberal society: except in very rare instances, it is as pointless as it is inarticulate. As a form of protest, demonstrations are now usually too orchestrated and clearly unsponsored to be affecting: all mass produced placards and bussed in rent-a-crowd. When they are staged by a ruling government, they become quite absurdly contrived.

But in the case of this particular rally in Berlin, the confusion of motives seems more than naive. It was, arguably, an attempt to gloss over a deeply divisive and difficult moral question with which Germany, along with which every other western European country, must come to grips. How quickly may large numbers of foreign migrants be safely assimilated into a country which is already suffering from economic decline?

In the case of Germany, the problems are exacerbated by guilt over its appalling history but there is no country in Europe which is unaware of the terrible lengths to which hatred of the outsider may be carried.

Avoidance of any sensible discussion of this question takes many forms, none of which are helpful to the persecuted (or merely impoverished) peoples who arrive to face such hostility. The blanket charge of racism, repeated like a mantra, not only threatens democracy with new forms of thought control but actively alienates those borderline cases of anxiety who might not have been lost to the forces of bigotry if their worries had been addressed rather than maligning.

There are things which governments can do about violence against minorities: they can legislate against overt acts of victimisation or discrimination (but not against hatred which is unreachable by law), and enforce that legislation with all possible rigour. They can avoid being bullied by the more hysterical (or mischievous) political manipulators who exploit minority persecution for their own anti-democratic purposes.

And they can make real efforts to understand the unease of their own populations which, left to fester, may turn into full blown Fascism. What they should not do is fudge the issues and stage a parade.

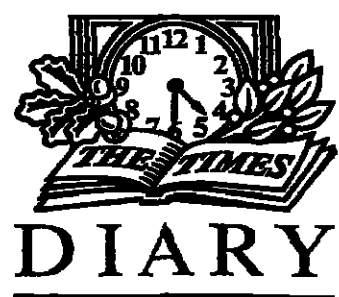
Frock horror

AS THE clerical world (but probably not his wife) descends on London for one of the more historic votes in the life of the General Synod tomorrow, there is one potentially explosive question that has been studiously kept off the agenda. Tomorrow's vote is purely concerned with the ordination of women: but if there are to be women priests, pressure will soon grow for female bishops.

It may take as long as three years before women are allowed into the episcopate, but already there is talk in the vestries of several candidates who would be suitable for such roles. Susan Cole-King, a deacon at Dorchester who has been ordained in America and is said by some colleagues to "have the perfect bearing for an Anglican bishop" is heading the field. She is followed by June Osborne, in east London and Jean Mayland, of York Minister.

"I think one has to say that if there are female priests, then it would be theologically dishonest not to countenance female bishops," says Geoffrey Kirk, vicar of St Stephen's, Lewisham, and a firm opponent of the motion. "I would say that it is extraordinary that it is

not in the current legislation." Meanwhile, pressure to prevent resignations is being applied in the House of Bishops. According to Mr Kirk, the power of the staff is greater even than that of the whips in the House of Commons. Already, David Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield, has said he will retire should the outcome favour the ordination of women and Timothy Bavin of Portsmouth is likely to step down. The identity of the much mooted third man remains unknown although there is strong speculation that Andrew Graham of Newcastle could also leave his



diocese. But if they have their way we may never know. Last night it was rumoured that 15 out of the 53 would be voting against.

● Iceland's population is the same as the borough of Wandsworth. The most useful Norwegian inventions include the cheese slicer, the paper clip and the string vest. Denmark's biggest export is Christmas trees. We are indebted to the organisers of Tender is the North, the Scandinavian exhibition which opens at Barbican on Wednesday for these useful facts. The exhibition may be less banal, perhaps, than the publicity.

Verbally challenged

ACCOUNTANCY jargon may never be the same again. Margaret Hodge, former leader of the Isl-

ton Council, is already making waves at Price Waterhouse, the firm which she joined last week as local government consultant. Her first target is likely to be the gobbledegook written by accountants. It may soon be politically correct gobbledegook.

Hodge's bible is a politically correct dictionary which she bought in the US. In it housewives are described as "domestic incarcerated survivors" and old people as "chronologically gifted". Hodge has offered to donate a copy to the left-wing council as a parting gift, though her new City employers may have more need of it.

Hodge, however, has more basic problems to worry about. Used to having a huge staff and a suite of offices at her disposal when she ran Islington Council, she has come down to earth with a bump. Not only does she not have an office at PW, she hasn't even got a desk. "I have had to learn how to use a photocopier," she wailed at her farewell party at Islington town hall last week.

● Now that the Maastricht vote is out of the way, the Government can once again turn its attention to truly important issues. Lord Campbell of Croy has tabled a question in the House of Lords today asking her Majesty's Government to encour-



age the introduction and distribution in the West Highlands of the red mite and natter's bat, in order to reduce the numbers of the Highland midge. "We don't suffer from midges too badly in Croy," says Lord Campbell, "but they are a great problem on the West coast. The red mite is a kind of parasite and the bats, which I believe are



quite rare, eat midges. What I'm not clear about is whether the red mite is an enemy of the natter's bat. If that is the case, they clearly cannot encourage both."

● John Major's popularity may be waning but support has come from an unusual quarter. Dawn Fraser, right, the Australian Olympic swimmer and former MP is offering Major swimming lessons to build his stamina. "A lot of us in Australia feel he has been getting a hard time," she says. If he accepts, Major would be in good company. Fraser has been coaching Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, for some time.

Storm at Ten

THE hundred or so former employees of Independent Television

News who have recently been made redundant are allowing themselves a wry smile over the company's latest, expensive exploit. Executives designing an opening sequence to launch the new-look *News At Ten* hit upon the bright idea of hiring an airship plus an entire crew from Austria to film an aerial shot of the Palace of Westminster. But the ITN management had reckoned without the weather. High winds meant the airship was grounded for several days outside ITN's Westminster office. The hiring cost — believed to be about £20,000 — did not include delays.

To make matters worse, when the shot was finally completed, a panel of independent assessors is reputed to have given it the thumbs-down. "All the changes have been carried out in-company. I am not aware of any problems concerning the aerial filming," sniffed an ITN spokeswoman.

● What's in a name? The answer is up to £70, according to the Beckenham Conservative Association. At its recent annual dinner, where Jeffrey Archer presided over the auction, two identical bottles of 12-year-old House of Commons whisky came under the hammer. The one autographed by John Major fetched £60. The other signed by Lady Thatcher went for £150.



THE YELTSIN WELCOME

There should be no such thing as a free banquet

John Major was the first Western leader to telephone support to Boris Yeltsin, when he stood out against the August 1991 coup. Britain is the last important Western country to receive Russia's president on an official visit. Between the two dates the first glow of Mr Yeltsin's honeymoon with his electorate and foreign admirers has faded. The delay should now be turned to mutual advantage.

Mr Yeltsin's main aim must be to rekindle Western interest in his battle to transform Russia. Thanks to America's presidential election and the European Community's obsession with the Maastricht treaty, Western governments have tended to rest content with promising \$24 billion to promote reforms, leaving the International Monetary Fund to work out the details. Because Russia has not held to the reform strategy approved by the IMF earlier this year, most of this money remains unspent. Mr Yeltsin may be genuinely unable to keep to the original timetable. If so, the West's politicians, not its bureaucrats, must decide how to respond.

As long as the West believes the Russian president to be genuinely bent on co-operation abroad and structural reforms at home, it should be prepared to renew its commitment to help. Achieving the maximum long-term stability in Russia and its neighbours is important. At stake is confidence in joint East-West control over the arms trade, nuclear proliferation and the containment of regional conflicts. It is by no means self-evident that watering down reforms will shore up political stability; but Mr Yeltsin is in the firing line and should at least be given a chance to make his case.

Symbolism is important. The Russians set must store by ceremony, and yesterday's conclusion of a Russo-British friendship treaty, the first since 1766, employs older and happier national precedents to offset three generations of ideological hostility. Britain also intends this treaty as a public reminder to enemies of reform in Russia that Mr Yeltsin has powerful friends.

Such ceremonial is a necessary counterweight to the tough talking — on economic reforms, on Russian arms sales to China, on

the sale and smuggling of nuclear secrets and technology — that must take place in private. The West is right to insist that Mr Yeltsin persist with market reforms: there can be no sense in pouring good money into a sink of permanent hyper-inflation. No third way has yet been discovered between capitalism and a command economy. Most Russians believe that there is no turning back, and have no illusions about a painfree transition. But tact is required. Russia's problems in converting its giant defence industry dwarf anything in the West: privatisation of its huge state industrial base will be a long haul under any set of policies. The West could and should do more now in such areas as energy — critical if Russia and its neighbours are to rely less on unsafe nuclear power. But the Western contribution to the economy as a whole can only be small.

No government dealing with Russia should be too dogmatic. Mr Yeltsin is dancing the Leninist step, two forward and one back, as did Mikhail Gorbachev before him. Mr Major will exhort Mr Yeltsin to stand by Yegor Gaidar, his reformist prime minister; but he should concede the weight of the forces ranged in opposition.

Mr Yeltsin is headed for continuing compromises with Russia's right wing; what matters is that these should be with the conservative members of the Civic Union, rather than with the xenophobes and communist hardliners bent on protecting privileged fiefs. The West must be prepared to acknowledge that some of its Civic Union critics are democrats who fear that the fast track to a market economy Mr Gaidar has charted is a recipe for social turmoil.

The West naturally shudders at resurgent authoritarianism in Russia; but Mr Yeltsin's survival depends on re-establishing the authority of government. This visit is an opportunity for Britain to remind him of the broad conditions for Western support, and of the symbiotic relationship between structural reforms and the foreign investment Russians want and need. It is also an opportunity to welcome Russia, in hope if not yet in confidence, as a convert to democracy.

TWO POINTS OFF

Neither government nor country can afford another mistake

One of the few advantages of running a government in the middle of a recession, is that the needs of the economy and the imperatives of political survival tend to coincide. For two years John Major ignored this maxim, tailoring British economic policy to the needs of the German economy and the imperatives of European politics. That has been the fundamental reason both for the length of the present recession and for the depth of the Conservative schism.

Until recently, the near-unanimous consensus in favour of the ERM in Britain's political and business establishment masked the absurdity of the government's behaviour. But on Wednesday, September 16, the financial markets finally cried "the Emperor has no clothes". Since then, the continuous political crises and public attacks on the Prime Minister could be boiled down to one question: Has Mr Major's rediscovery of Britain's economic interests outside the ERM been sincere enough to save industry from further destruction, and his own position from a relentless decline and fall?

It is unusual in politics for such questions to invite straight answers, but in this case the answer lies only two days off. On Thursday afternoon, when Norman Lamont presents his Autumn Statement, he is expected to announce a cut in bank base rates to counteract the deflationary effects of a necessary but unpopular squeeze on public spending. If Mr Lamont boldly reduces interest rates by two percentage points, his Autumn Statement will be greeted as a genuine programme for economic growth. Housebuyers, tempted by mortgage rates

that are likely to fall no further, will begin business. Consumer confidence will recover, and Mr Major will have a good chance gradually to rebuild his authority in the Cabinet, the Conservative Party, and the country at large.

If, on the other hand, the Treasury's instinctive caution prevails, the government will trim base rates by only a point or less. The Autumn Statement will be seen as just another grim staging post on Britain's road into permanent slump. Warnings about severe cuts in public spending and hard luck stories about council tax and low pay in the public sector will dominate the headlines. Consumers and businessmen will expect still further cuts in interest rates. Housing and asset prices will go on falling.

Because of the substantial easing in monetary policy that has occurred since Britain's deliverance from the ERM, the economy will probably avoid an outright depression; but there will be no reawakening for the spirit of growth. After the events of the last few weeks, the political consequences of continuing to bump along the bottom of recession should not need to be spelled out.

Mr Major will face a critical choice on Thursday morning when the Chancellor consults him on interest rates just before delivering the Autumn Statement. The CBI, the building societies and most City commentators have made their views clear. Overwhelmingly they favour an immediate cut of two percentage points. Before Thursday morning, Conservative MPs must ensure the Prime Minister makes the right choice. He cannot afford another mistake.

WINE IN A COLD CLIMATE

Brussels must raise its paltry quota for English wine

The grape harvest has begun in one of the world's most northerly vineyards. Sixty pickers in Cheshire are busy stripping by hand the 12 acres of Seyval Blanc vines that defy geography and surprise connoisseurs with their brisk northern presumption.

Until a generation ago, English wine was a joke on a par with French cricket, to be gulped down by the jugful in order to lose the flavour and the bouquet, and shortly afterwards your power of speech. It was not saying much to declare that the bouquet was better than the taste, and vice versa.

Not any more. Since commercial viticulture was reintroduced in the Fifties, English wine-making has revived. The Romans brought the vine to the beer-drinking Britons, and cultivated it as far north as Hadrian's Wall. Domesday Book registered some 40 vineyards, and during the Middle Ages the number rose to more than 300, most of them run by monks from Rievaulx to Tintern. They were hit by the Black Death, and the dissolution of the monasteries, and the Puritan revolution finished them off.

Grapes can be grown out of doors here only because it is an island. Britain falls outside the pale of viticulture in the northern hemisphere, set (by the French) between the charmed latitudes of 30°N and 50°N. But we have a temperate maritime climate, warmed by the Gulf Stream. Grapes can be grown, in a sunny year, from Carden Park

in Cheshire to Tenterden in Kent. Today there are more than 445 English and Welsh vineyards covering more than 1,000 acres.

This remains, however, a pocket-handkerchief beside the sheets of the grand growers. But more than 3 million bottles of English wine will be produced this year. The wine-classifiers have already selected their stock epithets of mayflower and hedgerow scents to apply to English wine.

A vigneron does not have to be drunk to grow wine in England. But it helps, in a country with such uncertain sunshine, and such a taboo against roasting the songbirds that eat the grapes. Wine is always going to be a cottage industry here, because 90 per cent of the most suitable land for growing vines is buried beneath asphalt or concrete.

But English wine-growers are doing something right. If, as is probable, they produce more than 2.5 million litres this year, they will come under an automatic EC planting ban, to stop them augmenting the wine lake. This makes the playing field as unlevel as some of England's precipitously scenic vineyards. The quota allowed to midge and heroic producers such as England should be doubled. If trade war breaks out, Britons are going to need their home-grown juice as much as the medieval monks ever did, and those Roman soldiers staring in disbelief at the continually approaching Scotch Mist.

Whips' role in Maastricht vote

From Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP for Perth and Kinross (Conservative)

Sir, Last Wednesday night I did not vote for the Maastricht treaty, which I abhor; I voted for the Conservative and Unionist government, which the Pharisees of the Labour party compelled me to do.

However, had I been aware that the whips (some of them) would resort to a criminal offence, and I presume blackmail is a criminal offence in England, I would have voted against their orders.

I am appalled at numerous reports that the whips saw fit to threaten to expose extra-marital conduct by backbench colleagues in order to persuade them to abandon their consciences. There has been, as far as I am aware, no denial of these reports.

If Mr Mello's adultery is acceptable to the prime minister, how dare he set his sleuths on more sensitive men to break their families or their trust with conscience?

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN,
House of Commons,
November 9.

From Mr H. R. Cole

Sir, Were I to offer my member of Parliament inducements to vote as I wished on a particular issue (or to threaten him with sanctions if he failed to do so) I would probably find myself at the Bar of the House very swiftly indeed. While there may have been some exaggeration in the horror stories of MPs being harassed last week, it seems to me that the actions of the whips must have been just as much in contempt of Parliament as any attempt by an outsider to bribe a member.

Should the whole matter not be referred to the Committee of Privileges so that whips who chastise may themselves be chastised — preferably with scorpions?

Yours etc,
HARVEY R. COLE,
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 9.

From Mr N. A. Uberoi

Sir, We saw in the 1970s and 1980s trade union practices involving bullying tactics, threats, not very subtle arm-twisting and no secret ballot.

Now we have seen the same thing in respect of the "paving motion" on Maastricht. This is our government at work in the House of Commons, the seat of our democracy in the country.

Where are the men and women of honour and vision required to lead this country into the next decade? Sadly, not in the present cabinet.

Yours sincerely,
NEEL UBEROI,
Woodlands, Firs Road,
Kenley, Surrey,
November 5.

Gatt breakdown

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Was the prime minister's inability to foresee problems and recognise priorities ever more starkly illustrated? No country needs a new Gatt agreement more than the UK, and no country will be more damaged by its failure.

At a time when internal dissension in the EC Commission was wrecking the EC/USA Gatt negotiations and when Britain held the presidency John Major could find nothing more important to do than pick a procedurally unnecessary fight with his backbenchers over the irrelevant Maastricht agreement.

Under the recent agreement on the common agricultural policy the government chose to concede that UK farmers are of secondary importance — UK with 11 per cent of cereal acreage gets 19 per cent of set aside, 16.5 per cent of UK land will be set aside with EC average 9.4 per cent, etc; but then to allow Britain to be dragged to the brink of a trade war over farming with the USA, a major trading partner, a long-time friend, a superpower and a country with whom we have no quarrel means once again wrong enemy, wrong battle, wrong cause. What next?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8,
November 9.

Power source in space

From Mr Anthony Rosen

Sir, Your article on Biosphere 2 (November 3) listed some of the rather roundabout problems that are being experienced in this supposedly closed environmental experiment.

When I visited Bio 2 I was informed that the idea is that it will "ultimately be established on Mars". Because of the vast glass structure there are four massive cooling machines, each as large as a small bungalow. These are powered from the local electric mains supply.

It is not easy to envisage the cost of the umbilical power cord that stretches from Earth to Mars. I think they will have to take solar panels.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY ROSEN,
Roshill, Arford,
Headley, Hampshire,
November 4.

Accountability in our schools

From Mrs Gillian Pugh

Sir, The new education Bill (report and leading article, October 31) presents very real challenges to primary education.

Its proposals, where they assume increased numbers of grant-maintained schools, will further centralise the education system, will reduce local accountability, will not increase parental choice, and will make small local primary schools very vulnerable. Parental choice, a guiding principle of the new Bill, has already been found by many parents to be an illusion: it is in fact schools that choose parents. In recent surveys 90 per cent of parents have expressed satisfaction with their local primary school; we now need to ensure that the remaining 10 per cent find equal satisfaction.

It is surely unrealistic to expect the new funding agencies for schools, which are accountable to the secretary of state rather than local education authorities, to provide the level of support that primary schools will continue to need if they are to provide a quality education for all local children.

The Bill represents a further move towards centralisation both in curriculum and in management which will disfranchise parents. Partnership between home and school is best fostered where local democracies, accountable to the local community through the ballot box, have a responsibility for their local primary school.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN PUGH,
(Chair, Primary Education Study Group),
Weatherhane, Old Shire Lane,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire,
November 3.

From Councillor Dermot Roaf

Sir, Your leading article of October 31, "Patten's paradoxes", supports the "elected government" removing education from "unaccountable local education authorities". But these authorities are elected and education naturally plays a much larger part in local elections than in national elections. Why not improve accountability by electoral reform rather than set up unelected quangos (known as "funding agencies for schools") to do the work of local education authorities?

Local management of schools means that the only important advantage for grant-maintained over county schools is that the former receive more money (partly at the expense of the latter). A new disadvantage is that the new education Bill will prohibit grant-maintained schools from purchasing many LEA services. The other advantage

of grant-maintained status (immunity from closure) will be removed if the Bill becomes law.

The government's support for subsidiarity should mean devolving more power to LEAs, not removing powers.

Yours faithfully,
DERMOT ROAF,
(Leader, Liberal Democrats),
Association of County Councils,
Eaton House,
66a Eaton Square, SW1.

From Mr Norman Fox

Sir, The real contradiction, rather than paradox, is that whereas the Conservative party claims to be committed to the extension of local democracy and the minimum interference by central government in local affairs, it has, historically as far as education is concerned, moved in a diametrically opposite direction.

Once there were directly elected local school boards, and not so long ago there were local divisional educational executives, both of which were abolished by Conservative administrations. The present one appears intent upon abolishing local education authorities. Instead we are to have, in your own words, "a single Whitehall bureaucracy" with its "ominously Leninist" overtones.

You write that "the most fundamental principle is that parents' wishes must be paramount", but other present and future citizens have an interest in the maintenance of a free and efficient system of education for all. In the running of the new "independent" schools they will have no say.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOX,
7 Falkland Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.

From Mr Michael Tatham

Sir, Congratulations on your extremely sound leader on the difficulties facing the Secretary of State for Education. Two points seem worth adding. If the examination process is taken out of the teachers' hands and restored to something very much more like the old O level, based on learning rather than coursework, then all the rest of the internal reforms must gradually follow.

My second point leads on from the first: that the concept of *failure* must be brought back as the only thing which makes success worthwhile or meaningful.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TATHAM,
New Barn, Newton Bromswold,
Northamptonshire.

but some commentators have somewhat bizarrely interpreted that to mean the hospital will close.

The Riverside district is in a unique position in London in that it is completing the construction of the country's newest hospital, the Chelsea and Westminster. Together with a network of NHS nursing homes for elderly people, that hospital will work outside our district to provide the best, most modern hospital facilities anywhere in the capital.

Can we keep the language of warfare and capitulation out of comment on this, when we are actually on the same side?

Yours sincerely,
IAN DONNACHIE,
Chief Executive,
Charing Cross Hospital,
5-7 Parsons Green, SW6,
November 9.

Tomlinson report

From the Chief Executive of Charing Cross Hospital

Sir, Acceptance of the Tomlinson report does not mean that Charing Cross Hospital has "run up the white flag", as Jeremy Laurance reported on November 4.

On the contrary, we see Tomlinson as confirming the work that has been done in Riverside over the last five years to rationalise the services of all the hospitals in our district (at present the Westminster hospitals, West London and Charing Cross) and to provide better health care to local residents and those who come from further afield.

Tomlinson's plans for Charing Cross are to create "a major specialist centre which would be more than merely two single-specialty hospitals in one building". That's clear enough,

now over 400 in Great Britain, representing nearly one in five of all general hospitals, with the greatest concentration in the outer suburbs of London.

There has never been any evidence that cottage hospitals are uneconomic. They enable local communities, urban, suburban and rural, to provide local care for the many conditions which have no need of the sophisticated facilities of the larger hospitals.

Yours faithfully,
MEYRICK EMRYS-ROBERTS
(Founding President, The Association of General Practitioner Community Hospitals),
The Old Post Cottage, Motcombe,
Shaftesbury, Dorset,
October 30.

Community hospitals

From Dr Meyrick Emrys-Roberts

Sir, Dr Sarah Matthews (letter, October 29) rightly draws attention to the wide range of local services offered by cottage hospitals, similar to those described in your article (October 23) on the Lambeth community care centre.

But why does she use the past tense in claiming that "equivalent centres existed"? Is she not aware that since the 1970s there has been a revival on a massive scale?

The great majority of the old cottage hospitals are still in existence. Most of them have been refurbished and several new "community" hospitals are being created every year. There are

visitors and their families in the United Kingdom.

Persons seeking to visit their family here, perhaps to come for a wedding or funeral or to see a sick relative, would have no remedy if they were improperly refused permission by British immigration officers in their home country. The home secretary has failed to put forward any legitimate explanation for this major amendment to current immigration law.

The Bill also imposes unreasonable time restrictions on asylum-seekers exercising their right to appeals which will lead to many genuine refugees being returned to face persecution.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL LESKIN
(Member, Immigration Law Practitioners Association),
B. M. Birnberg & Co. (Solicitors),
103 Borough High Street, SE1,
November 4.

Asylum Bill

From Mr Nigel Leskin

Sir, Your report (November 3) about the reintroduction of the asylum Bill in the Commons suggests that under the new measures visitors and short-term students will be deprived of the right to legal aid for lengthy and expensive judicial appeals. In fact, no one has ever had the right to have legal aid to appeal against refusal of leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, and this government clearly has no plans to remedy this lacuna.

However, what the Bill does is to take away the right of appeal of would-be visitors and potential students who are refused permission to come into the United Kingdom — whether they are refused at the port of entry or in their own home country when they apply for a visa. The effects of this could be devastating to many genuine

Additional help for homeless

From Lord Henderson of Brompton and others

Sir, We are gravely concerned at the plight of thousands of homeless families living in bed and breakfast hotels. These families with young children are seriously undernourished because they are unable to cook in the hotel and unable to meet the extra costs of take-away and café food. Inevitably, family members are experiencing severe health and dietary problems.

We have a simple proposal: the immediate introduction of a boarder premium. This premium would be paid to homeless families on income support who have no self-contained cooking facilities, and would go some way to meeting their special needs.

The House of Lords has already voted, by a substantial majority on a cross-party basis, in favour of a request to the government to amend the income-support regulations accordingly. An early day motion in support of the boarder premium has been signed by over 100 MPs from all sides of the House of Commons.

The prime minister has described his intention to create a society "at ease with itself", as well as bringing "quality of life" to all. If we are to achieve these aims, there must be immediate action to help homeless families to avoid malnutrition. At less than £12 million, the cost of the boarder premium is minuscule in the context of a social security budget of £70 billion.

Yours etc,
PETER HENDERSON,
LUCY FAITHFULL,
PATRICIA HOLLS,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords,
November 5.

Ties that bind

From Mrs Ioni Sanderson

Sir, In the late 1950s the Gulbenkian Foundation (UK branch) set up a committee of four to enquire into the state of the arts and the husband of one member (Lord Almarie) designed for them a dark blue tie, with the monogram "CG" in gold, in deference to Calouste Gulbenkian (letters, October 23, 29; November 3, 4, 7). As director of the Gulbenkian Foundation in this country my husband, Allendale Sanderson, was also given one, which he wore whenever the committee met.

Yours truly,
IONI SANDERSON,
St John House, Church Lane,
Bovingdon,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

From Dr Gregory Cookson

Sir, I, having served at Wajir in the northern frontier district of Kenya in 1955, am the proud possessor of the tie of the Wajir Yacht Club showing a naval crown surmounting the hump of a camel.

It must be one of the very few yacht clubs but, being situated in the middle of a semi-desert region, has no surface water for approximately 250 miles in any direction.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY COOKSON,
Cherry Tree Farm, Goresfield,
Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Unaccustomed as I am

From Mr A. S. Mackintosh

Sir, In his review (October 29) of *The Penguin Book of Twentieth-Century Speeches*, Sir Charles Powell wonders about the origins of the speechwriter. I suspect that the first explicit reference to a speechwriter is in Tacitus, *Historiae* I, chapter 90. Before leaving Rome in March AD70 to confront his rival Vitellius, the emperor Otho delivered a speech to the Romans which rebuked the armies supporting his rival but made no mention of Vitellius himself.

This was either the result of Otho's own moderation, or because the speechwriter, fearing for himself, refrained from insults against Vitellius.

The probable speechwriter, recognised by some from the distinctive style, is then named by Tacitus as Galerius Trachalus.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW MACKINTOSH,
4 Barton Road, Canterbury, Kent,
November 1.

On the wrong track?

From Mr Peter Sherlock

Sir, Leaving Manchester airport on the M56 towards Chester a section of the motorway has been closed off with the explanation "experimental lane closure".

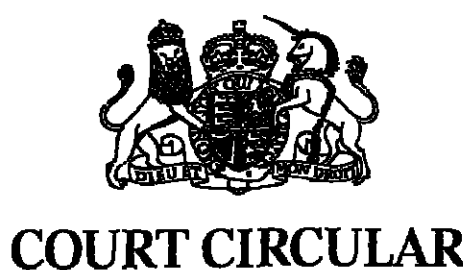
Are we being prepared for "experimental road works" on other parts of the motorway system?

Yours faithfully,
PETER SHERLOCK,
Linkfield, Wyner Road South,
Birkenhead, Merseyside,
November 5.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 9: The Queen this evening visited the British Museum, London W1, and opened the Joseph E. Hotung Gallery of Oriental Antiquities and unveiled a commemorative inscription.

Her Majesty was received by the Mayor of Camden (Councillor Winifred Parsons) and the Chairman of Trustees, British Museum (the Lord Windlesham).

The Duke of Gloucester (The Sovereign's Appointee to the Board of Trustees of the British Museum) and the Duchess of Gloucester were also present.

The Lady Elton, Mr Robin Jarvin and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the arrival of The President of the Russian Federation and Madame Yelina, and welcomed them to the Republic of Ireland, and welcomed Her Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

By Command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of The Duke of Kent for the Federal Republic of Germany and bade farewell to His Royal Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner in honour of The President of the Russian Federation and Madame Yelina at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening attended the Cambridge University Committee's reception at Trinity College, Cambridge.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 9: The Princess Royal this morning visited Loyal Shopability Mobility Office at Mount Pleasant and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness afterwards

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 9: The Duke of Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham this morning from Hong Kong.

Mr Peter Westmacott, Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser, RN, Mr Richard Arlitter and Surgeon Captain Ian Jenkins, RN, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 9: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon opened the new sheltered housing project of the Mercey's Company, 384/40 Essex Road, London N1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, Trustee of the British Museum, and the Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at the opening by Her Majesty The Queen of the Joseph E. Hotung Gallery of Oriental Antiquities, and subsequently attended a Dinner in honour of Mr Joseph E. Hotung at the British Museum, London, W1.

Mrs Michael Wigley and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE November 9: The Duke of Kent, Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon left Heathrow Airport, London, for Munich, Germany to visit the Electronics Trade Fair and to attend a dinner given by the Deutsche-Englische Gesellschaft.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, is in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE November 9: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the conclusion of visits to Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent, Barbados, Grenada and St Lucia.

THE TIMES We apologise to those readers who received a copy of last Saturday's paper which did not carry the court and social page. This was due to an equipment malfunction.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the opening gala concert of the Festival of Scandinavian Arts at the Barbican Centre at 6.45.

The Princess of Wales will open the new genito-urinary medicine department at Sandwell District Hospital at 11.25; as Patron of Turning Point, will attend a reception at Wragge and Company, 55 Colmore Row, Birmingham, at 12.20; and will attend a luncheon at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, at 12.55.

She will open the Amanda Bevan Rehabilitation Centre, Hurst Road, Longford, Coventry, at 3.30.

Prince Edward will attend the Northern Ballet Theatre's London season premiere of *A Christmas Carol* at the Royal Theatre at 7.35.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Riding for the Disabled Association, will attend the national conference meeting and dinner at the National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, at 2.00.

Princess Margaret will attend a performance of *My Darling Clementine* at the Royal Opera House at 7.20 as part of the Hamlyn Westminster week.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the 10th anniversary meeting of the Gloucestershire Enterprise Agency at Nuclear Electric, Barnwood, at 11.00; as Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will open St John House, the new County and Area headquarters of St John Ambulance, Cheltenham, at 12.45; will open the Cheltenham Recreation Centre, Tommy Taylors Lane, at 2.05; and, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a recital at the Festival Hall at 7.20 in aid of Historic Sites of Durburgh.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the redeveloped Longdon Cottage Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, at 2.05; and will open the Child Development Centre at City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, at 2.55.

The Duchess of Kent will attend a gala concert and dinner at Guildhall at 7.40 in aid of the Royal School of Church Music.

Princess Alexandra will attend a performance of *The Merry Widow* by the Pavilion Opera in the White House, Bond Street, at 8.10 in aid of the Living Image Appeal for diagnostic equipment at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals.

Lecture NCH George Thomas Society Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for Health, delivered the annual National Children's Home George Thomas Society Lecture after the annual dinner held last night at Ironmongers' Hall. Mr Neville Shulman, chairman of the society, presided. Viscount Tonypanady was among the guests.

Prime Minister

The Duke of York was present at a dinner given by the Prime Minister and Mrs Major last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich in honour of the President of the Russian Federation and Mrs Yelina.

Luxembourg Society Prince Henri, Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg, attended the 50th anniversary dinner of the Luxembourg Society held last night at the Middle Temple. Mr Percy Grive, QC, chairman, presided. The Luxembourg Ambassador and Mrs Mollitor and Mr Alexander Goodall, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mrs Goodall were among other guests.

Cardiff Business Club The Chairman of Mid Glamorgan County Council, Councillor E.J. Davies, Mr Jon Owen Jones, MP, and the President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Iwan Pugh, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the South Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff last night.

RAF Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding to be promoted to Marshal of the RAF, 6.11.92.

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Dinners

The Guest Speaker was Mr Bill Morris, General Secretary, Transport and General Workers Union. The leader of South Glamorgan County Council, Councillor Russell Goodway, presided.

Furniture Makers' Company Mr David Ross, Master of the Furniture Makers' Company, presided at the annual ladies dinner held last night at Drapers' Hall. Lord Woolf was the principal guest and speaker. Sir Geoffrey Leigh also spoke.

Anglo-Belgian Society Professor Mark Eyskens, member of the Belgian Parliament, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Anglo-Belgian Society held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Brussels Treaty. Viscount Hood presided. Sir Edward Jackson, chairman, and the Belgian Ambassador also spoke.

High Sheriff of Greater London Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, and Lady Bramall and the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Taylor of Gosford attended a reception held yesterday at the Law Society for the judiciary of Greater London by Mr James Lennox, High Sheriff of Greater London.

RAF Club Dining Society Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Wing Commander Bill Beaumont presided and Flight Lieutenant Leonard Williams also spoke.

Reception High Sheriff of Greater London Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, and Lady Bramall and the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Taylor of Gosford attended a reception held yesterday at the Law Society for the judiciary of Greater London by Mr James Lennox, High Sheriff of Greater London.

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Mayor, the Lady Mayress and the Sheriffs and their ladies and many distinguished guests and their ladies, at dinner at Guildhall to mark the 500th Anniversary of the award of a Cognizance to the Guild of Surgeons by King Henry VII.

Service dinner RAF Club Dining Society Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Wing Commander Bill Beaumont presided and Flight Lieutenant Leonard Williams also spoke.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A. Cambridge and Mrs E. Lennard The engagement is announced between Piers, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cambridge, of Epsom, Surrey, and Edith, daughter of Mrs Lennard, of Paris and Mrs Lennard, of Montreal.

Mr D. Meier and Miss A.F. Hall The forthcoming marriage is announced between David, youngest son of Mrs Joan Meier, of Harbour Cottages, Porthcawl, and Anna, second daughter of Mr William Hall, of Aylstone Road, Cambridge, and the late Mrs Jean Hall.

Mr M.A.J. Molloy and Miss M.F. Hase The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Molloy, of Cressage, Co Tipperary, and Muriel, daughter of Mrs Alicia Hase, of Filton, Co Kilkenny, and the late Mrs Hase, of Cape Town.

Mr M.F. Reeve and Miss L.H. Cornwall The engagement is announced between Matthew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Dyer, of Little Alton, Warwickshire, and Louise, only daughter of Mr Douglas Cornwall, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Mrs Valerie Cornwall, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

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OBITUARIES

Hanya Holm, one of America's leading modern dance choreographers who created the routines for the Broadway productions of *Kiss Me Kate* and *My Fair Lady*, died on November 3 aged 99. She was born Johanna Eckert in Worms, Germany, on March 3, 1893.

Hanya Holm enjoyed success simultaneously in two contrasting branches of choreography: serious art and popular entertainment. The woman who became known internationally for the dances she created in many musicals had already established herself firmly as one of the leading pioneers of the American modern dance. Her choreography included social criticism as well as comedy. Her teaching was no less important and helped to start the careers of some of the most innovative members of the next generation.

Holm brought into America the influence of what was called there "the German dance" and known in her land of origin as "expressive dance" or "new artistic dance". Her dance studies, after a convent school education, were with two of the moving spirits of this new wave, first at the Dalcroze Institute of Applied Rhythm, in Frankfurt and Hellerau, and then Mary

Wigman's school in Dresden, where she became a member of Wigman's newly-formed group, and also a teacher, co-director and assistant choreographer. For 12 years, Holm toured Europe with Wigman, including their London debut in 1928; she also performed in one of the earliest of Max Reinhardt's productions of *The Miracle*.

The Wigman group made its first American tour in 1930-31, with such success that a Wigman school was started in New York, with Holm in charge. Besides training dancers, she developed a form of lecture-demonstration to educate the public in the style she was introducing. Her work in her adopted land (she became an American citizen) thus proved as influential as that of her native-born contemporaries, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman, in shaping the growth of American modern dance.

In 1936, the school became the Hanya Holm Studio, and remained one of New York's leading schools until she closed it in 1967. Her most famous work, *Trend*, was created in 1937 at the Bennington College summer school for dance, using members of the workshop she was conducting as well as her own dancers. It was an ambitious panorama of group and solo



dances showing a society destroying itself by false values, but with a hopeful ending. Unusually for that time, it used recorded music, including two sections by Edgard

Varèse that were thought very difficult and advanced. It won The New York Times award for best dance composition of the year.

In *Metropolitan Daily*, a

year later, Holm showed her gift for comedy, portraying the various sections of a newspaper from the financial pages through the society and gossip columns to the comics and the sports pages. This proved so popular that it remained long in her repertoire, repeatedly revised. Both this and her *Tragic Exodus*, in 1939, are variously reported as having been the first modern dance to be televised.

From 1941, Holm gave summer courses on the West Coast in Colorado Springs, continuing until 1975, when she was 82; that year also saw her last choreography, *Rosa*, for the company of Don Redlich, one of her many pupils, who also included such notable dancers and choreographers as Valerie Bettis, Glen Tetley and Alvin Nikolais. Tetley and Nikolais both became, for a while, Holm's choreographic assistants before starting independent careers. That Holm could help to develop talents so different from her own and from each other's arises from her most valuable quality as a teacher, that she was more concerned to encourage creative exploration than to inculcate a fixed technique. In her view, it was the quest for the right movement to express an idea that essentially distinguished modern dance from classical ballet with its existing vocabulary of steps.

Since Balanchine in the 1930s, it had been acceptable for leading choreographers to work in musicals. Holm's arrival on Broadway came in 1948, when her dances for *Kiss Me Kate* won the New York Drama Critics award for choreography; she soon repeated them for the London production. Among the many other shows she worked on, the biggest successes were *My Fair Lady* (1956, also repeated in London) and *Camelot* (1960). She directed and choreographed operas, including Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* for a festival in Vancouver. She was in 1961, she was appointed head of the dance department of the New York Musical Theatre Academy. Her career is documented by the Hanya Holm Collection in the Dance Collection of the New York Public Library, based on her gift of photographs, scrapbooks and programmes in 1952, but much added to since.

Another of Holm's pioneering moves for which choreographers owe her thanks is that her dances for *Kiss Me Kate*, noted in Laban's system, were the first choreographed compositions accepted for copyright by the Library of Congress.

Holm, whose marriage to the painter and sculptor Reinhold Martin Kuntze was dissolved, is survived by a son.

BRYAN TODD

Bryan Todd, former advertising sales and marketing director of *The Times*, died on October 26 aged 59. He was born on April 5, 1933.

Bryan Todd, the son of a Blackpool tailor, was educated at Blackpool Grammar School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he read law. An early introduction to newspaper life was his participation at Cambridge in the running of *Varsity*. He was not to join his brother in the legal profession, but instead went into business, becoming export sales manager for Colgate-Palmolive.

He had periods with Aspro Nicholas and IFC before becoming, in 1970, marketing manager of *The Times*, in which position he was immensely influential in setting the paper on the path to recovery from the appalling commercial consequences of the dash for circulation in the late 1960s.

Todd had a clear view of where, in a marketing sense, *The Times* should be positioned and he was able to advocate articulately and effectively to senior people, even though many of them did not want to hear his message. His vigorous advocacy, combined with an inability in business life to tolerate lesser intellects, denied him universal popularity, but underlined the conviction and integrity of his ideas.

Todd convinced his colleagues and went on to implement his policy by consigning to history and to "dustbin" the "Top People" and "Our Cabinet" advertising campaigns. In their place, came wittier and more sophisticated advertising with famous lines such as "Sit down with a paper of standing" and "Separate fact from fiction" and "Prose without the con" in a campaign that helped *The Times* to achieve its objectives.

Todd's work resulted in the marketing and sales team of *The Times* becoming recognised as one of the most professional in publishing. He became advertisement and marketing director in 1977 and left the paper after its change of ownership in 1981. He was, from 1981 to 1987,

European vice-president of Crain Communications, launching *Focus*, a pan-European advertising and marketing magazine.

He also used his talent for selling on the Portobello Road, London, dealing in antiques from a stall every Saturday, hospital admissions excepting, until his untimely death. This routine was followed for many years by a visit to a friend who had a protracted illness.

In his personal life, Todd acted as a sort of Pied Piper, especially to young people, who delighted in his easy charm and his stories. He seemed like an extra, unworldly, parent to many, a favourite phrase was "Give it a go, she'll be right", delivered in a bad Australian accent. By contrast, he could be white with anger at wilful waste of opportunity.

After years of "the good life" there came ill-health, despite his giving up smoking and drinking overnight in 1987. He was critically ill for weeks after planned abdominal surgery in 1989. It proved impossible to remove an aortic aneurysm, and, during recovery, a long period of introspection followed. With the support of his wife and child-



ren and driven by an unshakable work ethic, he set up a marketing consultancy. As fund director for the charity Prisoners of Conscience from January 1991, he launched several successful appeals. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and their two daughters.

JAMES ROWLEY

James Joseph Rowley, former head of the United States Secret Service, who reorganised the agency after the assassination of President Kennedy, died on November 1 aged 84. He was born in the Bronx, New York, on October 14, 1908.

CHARGED with protecting the life of the president of the United States, James Rowley's worst nightmare came true on November 22, 1963, when John Kennedy was killed in Dallas. Rowley, who had become director of the Secret Service in 1961 and was to

hold the job for a further ten years, reacted by trying to ensure that such a calamity would not happen again. He modernised the agency's training, expanded the use of electronic technology and bolstered its protective intelligence operations.

Rowley knew how his agents felt on that day in Dallas from 1938, when he joined the service after a brief spell with the FBI, until his appointment as its head, he had served exclusively with the White House unit. One president, Harry Truman, probably owed his life to Rowley. Puerto Rican nationalists tried

to shoot their way into Blair House, Washington, when Truman was staying, on November 1, 1950. Rowley directed the operation that foiled the assassination attempt at the cost of an agent's life.

"The biggest threat to a president's life," he once said, "is from the self-deluded or the dupes of terrorists or subversive organisations. They think that if you knock off the head man, you throw the country into confusion and inertia. They think they become heroes in their own groups."

Acting initially as an advance man in protective plan-

ning for presidential trips, during which time he made security arrangements for the second world war summit in Casablanca, Tunis, Cairo and Yalta, Rowley was appointed supervisor of the White House unit in 1946. The role placed him constantly at the side of Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy. In photographs he is seen as an anonymous figure scanning the crowds for signs of danger.

Rowley's promotion to director took him out of the line of fire but gave him expanded responsibilities. The Secret Service, which was set up in 1865 to thwart counterfeiters,

retains the remit of protecting the currency as well as the president, and at the start of his tenure the problem was becoming serious. Counterfeiting doubled in 1961-2 and it was estimated that \$4 million in forged currency was manufactured. Rowley's men confiscated all but \$500,000 before it could get into circulation and nearly 700 counterfeiters were arrested.

During his tenure, Rowley saw the service almost triple and its responsibilities expand to include the protection of the vice-president and his family, major party candidates and visiting foreign dignitaries. It

also took on fraud cases involving securities, computers and credit cards. In tribute to him after his retirement, the service created the James J. Rowley Training Centre in Maryland.

The son of Irish immigrants to New York, Rowley was an outstanding athlete in high school but was prevented from taking up a college scholarship by the accidental death of his father. He worked as a bank investigator to support his family while studying at night for a law degree at St John's University, New York.

James Rowley is survived by Mabel, his wife of 52 years, and three daughters.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

LEGAL NOTICES

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NEWS

Major faces arms controls storm

THE Commons erupted in bitter recriminations last night after the arms-for-Iraq trial at the Old Bailey collapsed amid claims that the government secretly promoted defence-related exports to Baghdad. John Major faced demands for an enquiry into controls on military hardware sales after the acquittal of three top executives from the Matrix Churchill tool-making firm accused of illegal exports to Iraq. Page 1

Hurd not consulted on Euro-rebel deal

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was not consulted about the prime minister's decision to attempt to buy off his Euro-rebels by lengthening the timetable for the Maastricht treaty ratification. The concession, proposed by Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, was offered to half a dozen backbenchers as the government faced defeat. Page 1

Ford under threat

More than 25,000 Ford workers are to be balloted on industrial action after the company threatened to impose compulsory redundancies for the first time in almost 30 years. A strike vote would throw the firm into its worst industrial crisis since a strike four years ago. Page 2

Health superfund

Over 100 GP fundholders in Kingston and Richmond health district will band together to form a "superfund" with a £20 million budget. The fund will cover three-quarters of the local population and give the GPs unrivalled influence over hospital services. Page 7

Ulster deadlock

Talks on Northern Ireland's future, ending today, reached no significant agreement. But government sources confirmed that a modest summary of common ground between nationalists and unionists will be put before Stormont. Page 7

Rail failure

British Rail is seeking government approval for lower standards of reliability and punctuality on the west coast mainline because of antiquated infrastructure. Page 5

Drugs death

A mother of three from Nigeria, carrying what is believed to be cocaine in more than 100 poorly bound packets in her stomach died of a drugs overdose while attempting to bring them into Britain on a flight from Brussels to London's Heathrow. Page 4

Missed goals

Few of the goals Britain set itself for its EC presidency have been achieved. The government is divided over Europe, the country in uproar, and Britain's leadership is being written off by its partners as one of the most chaotic and disorganised the EC has known. Page 12

Cambodia danger

Cambodia is hurtling into resumption of civil war as the United Nations peace plan unravels by the day. The collapse of efforts in Peking leaves the UN with three equally unpalatable alternatives, none of which seems likely to avoid the situation in the medium term. Page 13

Clinton worry

Bill Clinton yesterday began his first full week of preparation for taking power amid warnings that urgent international problems could scupper his plans to focus like a "laser beam" on US economic problems. Page 13

Delors retreat

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, yesterday backed down over his ambitious plans to swell the EC budget, saying that member states could not be expected to hand over more cash to Brussels in a recession. Page 12

Boys scoop the A-level pot

Boys are turning the tables on girls at A level, in spite of lagging behind in GCSE performance, the official analysis of this year's public examination results will show next week. As well as winning higher average grades overall, male candidates were much more likely to achieve the maximum points score used for university entrance. Page 2



Foraging patrol: hungry children wait for a mealtime handout from troops of The Cheshire Regiment at their base in Vitez, Croatia

Up, up and away: BAA, the airport operator, raised pre-tax profits 45.7 per cent to £220 million in the six months to end-September, helped by an 11 per cent increase in passengers. Sir John Egan, chief executive, said a planning application for a fifth Heathrow terminal would be lodged next year. Page 21

Court protest: Hanson plans action in the US courts after being gagged in the acquisition of Costain's Australian coal-mining business by Altus Finance, a French concern jointly owned by Credit Lyonnais and Thomson-CSF. Page 21

Medical aid: Few adults today have seen much of death close to. Death is left to the doctors. They deal with the grim practicalities of the labour room and the operating theatre, they abort our fetuses and certify our corpses. We also expect them to handle our pain, fear and grief. How are they trained to cope with their role as our emotional dustbins? Page 15

Bottom line: Research by Oxford scientists using a new analytical technique has cast doubt on the link between aluminium and Alzheimer's disease. Nigel Hawkes considers other research on the second commonest metal in nature. Page 15

Nordic celebration: A massive, month-long festival of Scandinavian art opens in London tonight with a Barbican concert attended by the Queen and the heads of state of all Nordic countries. Page 29

Come capers: Monday has become television's funny night, with the start of a new series by the creator of Reggie Perrin, and the return of 'Allo! 'Allo! Page 30

Welcome back: Wigmore Hall, London's most civilised concert venue, reopens its doors on Thursday after a £2 million facelift. Eight celebrities, from rock star Elvis Costello to BBC World Service chief John Tusa, recall memorable evenings in the hall. Page 31

You can see them peering out of cardboard boxes in every charity shop: pouting dolly birds in maverick and orange tank tops, platform shoes and hot pants, still doing their best to persuade you to buy Top of the Pops Vol. 53 or Hot Hits 14. Tim Harrison on the resurgence of the Seventies compilation albums. Page 14

Selling cellblocks: Next April the prison service becomes a semi-autonomous unit. The intention is to remove the Home Office from involvement in its day-to-day management. Richard Ford meets a prison manager who is loosening some of the shackles. Page 28

The Yeltsin welcome: This visit is an opportunity for Britain to remind him of the broad conditions for Western support, and of the symbiotic relationship between structural reforms and the foreign investment Russians want and need. Page 17

What's in a point? The CBI, the building societies and most City and media commentators overwhelmingly favour an immediate cut of two percentage points. Between now and the Autumn Statement on Thursday morning, Conservative MPs must ensure the Prime Minister makes the right choice. He cannot afford another mistake. Page 17

Wine in a cold climate: The EC quota allowed to midget and heroic wine producers such as England should be doubled. If trade war breaks out, Britons are going to need their home-grown juice as much as the medieval monks ever did. Page 17

Europe seems to be losing some of its enthusiasm for unification. The interesting question is whether that's only temporary—the effect of unpopular leaders, weakened governments and slow economic growth—or a deeper change of heart that will continue over the years. The Washington Post

President Mitterrand, leader of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, joins the group's vigil at Lambeth Palace gates. Page 5

Margaret Orr Deas, leader of the London branch of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, joins the group's vigil at Lambeth Palace gates. Page 5

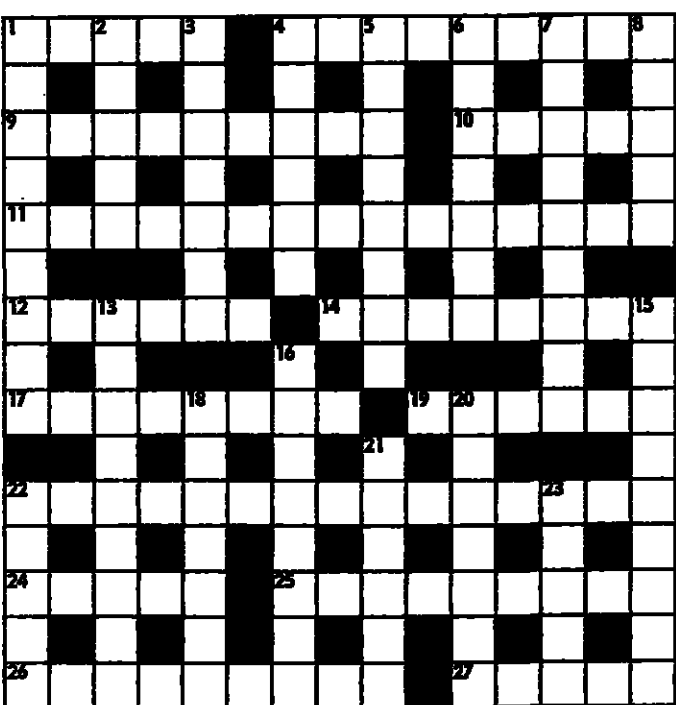
Margaret Beckett, Labour's public spending programme to get Britain out of recession without raising taxes. Page 10

After discovery of British spy Ian Sprio's body in California, police have yet to indicate whether he committed suicide or was murdered. Page 4

Athletics: Katrin Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, and two other German athletes could have their four-year suspension from international contests reduced because of controversy over clenbuterol. Page 40

Cricket: Omar Henry, the Cape Coloured all-rounder, has been picked by South Africa for the first Test match with India at Durban on Friday. Jimmy Cook has also been selected. Page 40

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,072



- ACROSS
- A particle of cheese from Egypt packed between two cards (5).
 - Astronomical feature discovered in Calcutta (5,4).
 - Whatever happens, there are two sides here (2,3,4).
 - It produces illusory movement round the region (2,3).
 - Refrain from betting everything—stay calm (4,3,2).
 - A nifty unit—OK? (6).
 - Amazed, with mouth round, watching amorously as love disappears (8).
 - Thousands back an agricultural worker (8).
 - Note private entrance to amusement arcade (6).
 - Baby often choked—rehabilitated in a remote place (3,4,2,6).
- DOWN
- Chew, swallowing unusual snack—I'll swallow anything (9).
 - Girl for instance upset gnome (5).
 - Central theme economist endlessly put in books (7).
 - Press lord had to work hard (6).
 - A translation of *bête noire* (8).
 - Clever card enclosing the present (7).
 - Obstetrician Gran is not under control (2,1,6).
 - Scuffed a portion of meat en croûte (5).
 - Eve had to make a fuss (5,4).
 - King and prince upset team in race (5,4).
 - Authoritarian rule gives man a kick (8).
 - Time man wanted desperately (7).
 - Supervise the removal of trustee from 25 (7).
 - Are all the competitors away from home? (6).
 - Drink a litre in all (5).
 - Starts to operate properly, ensuring normal service (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,071

CONCUR NOSINES
P H A E E I
S E D A N H A I R W A G E
R P K R E E N
W A V E L E S S N O R M A L
R T Y I A T
B O S O G A D A B O U T
P E N T E N T H E A R
R E V E N T N E E D
A L V E R E A I O
T E A N S G H
M I E N P R E C A R I O U S
O O I S I N T
A N E M O N I E L A G O O

Concise Crossword, page 40

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0851 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
North East	714
North West	715
West Yorkshire & Lancashire	716
East Yorkshire & Humberside	717
East of England	718
South East	719
South West	720
Wales	721
Wales & Shropshire	722
Wales & Herefordshire	723
Wales & Gloucestershire	724
Wales & Wiltshire	725
Wales & Dorset	726
Wales & Devon	727

Weatherwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

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Showers most frequent in the north and west, but a few will reach the southeast, some heavy with hail. There may be snow on higher Scottish hills. All districts will have some sunshine, with the most in the south and east. During the afternoon the showers will die down but rain will spread from the southwest after dark. Outlook: rain in many places at first, replaced by brighter, cold and showery weather, with snow on northern hills. Windy.

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Bedfordshire & Essex	706
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West Midlands & Shropshire	708
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Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
Yorkshire & Cleveland	713
North East	714
North West	715
West Yorkshire & Lancashire	716
East Yorkshire & Humberside	717
East of England	718
South East	719
South West	720
Wales	721
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ARTS 29-31

Eight cheers for the reopening of Wigmore Hall



LAW 33-35

Join The Times seminar on privacy and the press



SPORT 36-40

Will Krabbe's drugs ban be lifted?

PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT
ON TUESDAY
Page 28

THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

ADVISING



Professor Richard Layard has played a key role in advising the Russian government on its route to economic reform. Page 25

SLIPPING

Henderson Administration, the fund manager about to acquire the Touche Remnant group, suffered a fall in profits. Tempus, page 22

BUYING



Tomkins waded into the stock market yesterday to buy more shares in its target. Rankes Hovis McDougall Stock market, page 24

IMPROVING



Brian Taylor, chief executive of Wattle Stores, has increased margins on plastic in a deteriorating environment. Page 22

CBI delegates give ministers a rough ride

By PHILIP BASSETT AND ROSS TIEMAN

LEADING businessmen attacked the government's economic competence, record and policy yesterday as one minister again claimed that Britain was poised for recovery.

The annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry witnessed a series of vehement criticisms of the government's economic failings, including its previous promises of imminent recovery, and its lack of a credible economic policy.

The conference's anger will increase the pressure today on Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, to convince industry in his speech to the conference in Harrogate that the government has in place a series of economic initiatives that will help industry weather the recession.

Business leaders repeatedly stressed that they were looking for a lead from Mr Heseltine today. They said that while he and other ministers had finally been listening more closely to industry, Mr Heseltine had listened for long enough and now was the time for action.

He will have to answer their calls for specific evidence of new policies to help the economy and industry, especially on tax concessions for investment, export credit insurance and electricity prices, while spelling out exactly what he means by a policy of greater intervention in industry.

Mr Heseltine, who came under personal attack at the conference, with one delegate insisting that there was "no board, no trade, just a bloody president", will conclude a series of ministerial visits to the conference as secretaries of state have sought to ensure industry that they have been taking into account its wishes.

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, told the

Speaker after speaker at the CBI conference attacked government handling of the economy, recalling the "bare-knuckle fight" criticisms of a decade ago.

CBI that Britain was now poised for economic revival, and that the Autumn Statement on Thursday would "mark a turning point in the future course of the British economy."

Speaking to reporters, he said: "I think you will see on Thursday further evidence that the government is determined to make sure that all our policies are tailored to the encouragement of recovery, growth and jobs." Though he was careful to point out that he was giving no specific date on which the upturn would appear, Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary called on employers to help that process by giving jobs to the unemployed.

But CBI delegates insisted that the recession was far from over. Sir David Lees, chairman and chief executive of GKN, the engineering group, said that despite interest rate cuts and sterling's devaluation, "we find ourselves in the grip of a vicious recession that shows little sign of abating."

Speaker after speaker attacked the government in the CBI's economic debate. They sharply criticised the Treasury's statistics and forecasting, ministers' repeated claims that the recovery was under way and the failure of the government's economic policy marked by Britain's withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. The vast majority of speakers were highly critical of the government.

Delegates insisted that Black Wednesday had been a "disaster" for the government and the economy, and that the vacuum in government eco-

nomic policy it produced had not yet been credibly filled.

Sir David, who gave warning that the government might have to raise taxes, said that while the measures outlined by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, since Black Wednesday in his Treasury select committee letter and Mansion House speech sounded like "a sensible approach, it is very much based on a 'trust me and I'll pull the right levers' philosophy". Given the government's track record, this approach was "short of credibility".

The sheer ferocity of the criticisms recalled the attack on the government made at the 1980 CBI conference by Sir Terence Beckett, its then director-general, who called for a "bare-knuckle fight" with the government over economic policy. His call drew little support from the CBI's membership, prompting some companies to resign, and contributed heavily to the government's ostracism of the CBI over much of the next decade.

Yesterday's attacks were significantly different, in that they came largely from the CBI's members rather than its leaders, who have, under Howard Davies, the CBI's new director-general, been developing increasingly close and influential contacts with the prime minister and his senior cabinet colleagues.

CBI leaders believe that much of the pro-industry initiatives to be announced in the Autumn Statement on Thursday will bear the hallmark of CBI policies.

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City diary, page 25



Watching over employers: Gillian Shephard called on companies not to "shut out" the jobless (Speech details, page 23)

BAA profits soar 45% at halfway

By MATTHEW BOND

BAA, the airport operator, raised pre-tax profits 45.7 per cent to £220 million in the six months to the end of September, helped by an 11 per cent increase in passengers.

The figures confirm Heathrow's importance to the company. The west London airport contributed 58 per cent of group turnover of £503 million and 67 per cent of operating profits of £253 million.

Sir John Egan, chief executive, said a planning application for a proposed fifth terminal would be lodged early in the new year, with the public enquiry unlikely to begin before 1994. A final decision, he complained, was not expected until 1997. He said: "We more than support Ian Prosser of the CBI in calling for a more rapid determination of these major

infrastructure planning enquiries."

The company is also experiencing delays in its plan to build a £270 million rail link between Paddington and Heathrow. The cost is to be raised from the private sector. Sir John said BAA had a detailed design for the project, but had not yet been given a track usage fee that would make the project sufficiently attractive to secure funds from other investors.

Passenger traffic was 9 per cent up at Gatwick, 37 per cent at Stansted and 15 per cent at Glasgow. The interim dividend rises 8.7 per cent to 6.25p (5.75p).

Gatwick airport officials yesterday backed Dan-Air's takeover by British Airways and began plans to turn Gatwick into one of Europe's most important connecting hubs (Harvey Elliott writes).

Within hours of the signing of the deal, under which BA buys 12 aircraft, 13 routes and 450 staff for only £1 in cash, all Dan-Air's signs had been removed and their scheduled services had been given BA flight numbers.

Despite continuing criticism of the takeover from independent airlines which fear that BA will become dominant at the two main London airports, Gatwick officials are convinced that it will prove a turning point for the airport.

Allan Munds, Gatwick's managing director, said: "We hope and expect that British Airways will now have a much larger and more comprehensive short-haul network and have both the marketing and sales strength to make it a success."

Sir John Egan, BAA chief executive, said: "We welcome BA's takeover of Dan-Air scheduled routes. It is clear that over the years scheduled

operators have found it difficult to operate viable short-haul networks out of Gatwick, but we believe that such routes are important to the successful development of the whole airport."

The takeover of Dan-Air has enabled BA to double its fleet and the number of European destinations it serves, allowing it to offer 380 short-haul flights a week to 23 destinations and connect them to 25 long-haul operations. BA plans to move all services into the North terminal from the end of January, halving the time taken to transfer between flights.

BA has offered more than 1,250 of its staff at Gatwick new contracts at salaries up to 20 per cent below what they now earn but softened with compensation payments of up to £20,000.

Tempus, page 22

Costain faces Hanson action

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

HANSON is planning action in the American courts after being trumped in its acquisition of Costain's Australian coal mining business by Alhus Finance, a French concern jointly owned by Credit Lyonnais and Thomson-CSF.

Costain, which last month agreed to sell the mining business to Hanson's Peabody subsidiary for £123 million, has now agreed to sell it and the company's Australian property interests to Alhus for £158 million.

Both deals would have also required the buyer to take on Costain's £50 million-plus debts in Australia.

The deal with Hanson contains a penalty clause if the companies are sold to another buyer, and it appears Costain has decided that the Alhus deal

is sufficiently favourable to shareholders to allow that clause to be triggered, at a cost in damages payable to Hanson of perhaps £3 million.

This still leaves Costain, after recent exchange-rate movements, with an additional £26 million of cash over and above what Hanson would have paid, before taking into account the value of the commercial property also being sold.

But Peabody reacted swiftly with a threat of legal action in America, where it claims much of the negotiations took place. Iri Engelhardt, the Peabody chairman, said: "Peabody has acted in good faith and we have an enforceable contract."

It is thought Hanson will attempt to block the Alhus deal

and force completion of its own rather than merely require payment under the penalty clause.

Peter Costain, the chief executive of Costain, said the unsolicited offer from the French had come after the expiry of a binding agreement to deal with Peabody exclusively. "It was as much as a surprise to me as it was to Peabody," he said.

He added that the exclusivity clause had expired on September 30, at which stage there were no discussions with Alhus. Subsequent negotiations with the French had been terminated with the signing of the Hanson deal on October 19, but the latest offer had nonetheless been made.

Tempus, page 22

Nervous consumers repay £60m of debt

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ECONOMIC and political turmoil in September appears to have unnerved the still-wary British consumer, triggering increased debt repayment.

Disappointing September consumer credit figures combined with talk of a big base-rate cut in Thursday's Autumn Statement to undermine sentiment for sterling. The pound dropped to DM2.4255 at the London close, down more than 2.25pennings from Friday, and against the dollar ended more than 1.25 cent lower, at \$1.5298.

Avinash Persaud, currency analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said speculation that Norman Lamont, the chancellor, will sanction a two-point reduction has aroused fears

that 6 per cent would not be the end of monetary easing. He said even two points off base rate might prove insufficient to restore confidence in which case the pound could fall to as low as DM2.

Government figures showed consumers paid back £60 million more than they borrowed in September after a net repayment of £36 million in August. The £58 million reduction of credit-card debt accounted for the bulk of the repayment.

New credit advanced in September rose to £4.37 billion from £3.79 billion in August, but City economists said the September data were blotted by the end of the stamp-duty holiday.

Knocking on doors beats the recession blues

By JON ASHWORTH

DING, dong! The Avon Lady had better look out. When it comes to door-to-door selling in a recession, lavatory brushes and bin liners sell faster than lipstick.

Demand for basic household necessities has boosted Betterware, the UK's second-largest direct home shopping retailer after Avon, the cosmetics to toiletries group, to yet another round of record trading. Pre-tax profits rose 124 per cent from £2.8 million to £6.3 million in the six months to September 12. Earnings per share increased from 1.95p to 4.29p, allowing for a 3-for-2 scrip issue earlier in the year. The interim dividend rises to 0.5p (0.34p) a share.

For Andrew Cohen, who bought Betterware from the receivers nine years ago, everything is going as planned. His company has signed up another 2,000 distributors to deliver Betterware catalogues, taking the



Catalogue of consumers: Andrew Cohen has transformed doorstep selling

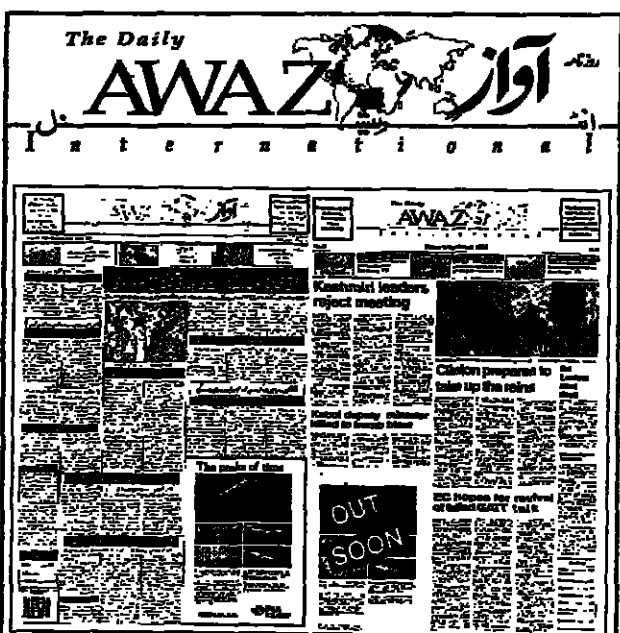
number of UK agents to more than 9,000. Consumers have raised their average order from £7 to £8. Turnover in the first half inched up from £21.1 million to £29.4 million. "Each week

we deliver more than a million catalogues and take more than 200,000 orders," said Mr Cohen, group chief executive. "We're not a sexy business selling sexy products.

We sell brooms, brushes, buckets, washing-up liquid." The shares rose 4p to 172p.

Mr Cohen has planned his conquest of British homes with all the precision of a military campaign. Staff at a central depot just outside Birmingham co-ordinate the movements of thousands of field agents using the latest computer technology. At the tap of a button, they can divide the UK up into region, neighbourhood, street and individual home. They can pinpoint where their brochures have gone and single out the true selling stars from the no-hopers.

Like the legendary Avon Lady, most of the agents who deliver an updated Betterware brochure every eight weeks or so are women. On paper, they are responsible for 2,500 homes each, but the workload reduces the rounds to about 1,000. Thereafter, the catalogue comes through the letterbox every couple of months. And the profits come flooding in.



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TEMPUS

Lighter costs lift BAA to higher flightpath

BAA shares have out-performed the FT-All Share index by 70 per cent in the last 12 months. Yesterday, it was confirmed why. Much has been made of the Gulf war factor, which as it passes into history is certainly one reason why passenger traffic through BAA's airports rose 11 per cent in the six months to end-September. But there is far more to BAA's 45.7 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £220 million than a reduction in the fear of flying.

Some of the improvement stems from factors largely outside BAA's control, such as the vagaries of the commercial property market, which resulted in £9.5 million of write-downs being taken through the profit and loss account and £20.1 million through the balance sheet. These write-downs are encouragingly down on last year but will have to be looked at again at the year end.

Others factors, however, are very much in the control of Sir John Egan and his team. Two factors, the recession and the first year of a highly restrictive pricing formula from the Civil Aviation Authority controlling landing charges, combined to give management the best possible environment in which to attack costs. With

virtually the entire £38 million cost of shedding a fifth of the workforce taken in last year's accounts, the benefit of cutting staff numbers to 8,500 is flowing rapidly through to the bottom line. Productivity, in terms of passengers per employee, is up 30 per cent, apparently with no reduction in quality of service.

Helped by a 7 per cent increase in retail revenues, cash flow was positive for the first time since privatisation. With about £78 million of debt repaid, gearing has fallen from 44.9 per cent to 40.8 per cent.

Less spectacular improvements are expected in the second half, but the company looks comfortably on target for full-year profits of more than £300 million. At a jumbo 747p, the shares look expensive on a multiple of 16 and a prospective yield of less than three, but cannot be ignored.

Henderson Admin

WHILE busy planning its future, Henderson Administration is unable to erase the sins of the past. The fund manager's 21 per cent fall in half-year profits is a poor



Air traffic control: Sir John Egan, head of BAA

recommendation for its imminent acquisition of Tootle Remnant. Henderson continues to be dogged by a record of poor investment performance in the late eighties. This has prompted many pension funds to ignore it when searching for new managers, while many existing clients have walked out. The group's funds under management remained steady at £7.3 billion

in the half-year to end-September despite continuing net redemptions in unit trusts in line with industry trends. But revenue fell 6 per cent to £20.5 million due to a £680 million fall in funds in the previous financial year. The news that Henderson has become one of the managers of the Wellcome Foundation's billions suggests that its fortunes may be beginning

to improve. Nevertheless, it is worrying that the group is deploying its greatest asset, a £55 million cash pile, to buy a rival fund manager with an equally inconsistent track record. In the last half year, Henderson earned almost half its profits from interest on that cash.

The figures also raise a question about Henderson's other recent expansion. Henderson Seligman, the American joint venture, and the 25 per cent stake in Sabre, the futures fund manager, incurred a loss of £238,000. Henderson's results prompted analysts to downgrade full-year forecasts, with the group expected to make £14 million in the full year, putting it on a p/e ratio of almost 15. The shares look expensive and should be avoided at least until details of the Touche acquisition are published.

Costain

THE prospect of a bruising legal battle with Lord Hanson would deflate any share price. Costain, therefore, after being marked higher when the news broke that the group would see an extra £26 million from the sale of its Australian coal mining operations, ended the day a net 1p lower at 28p once

it had become clear that his Lordship was not going to take this one lying down.

The difference between the offers is fairly small in the context of debts that should reach £175 million by the end of this year at Costain even if the deal goes through. It was a clean and final exit from Australia that had encouraged the market initially, after Almus agreed to take the commercial property business off Costain's hands.

That exit might not turn out to be so clean after all now, if the matter becomes bogged down in the American courts. Costain, which needs the money immediately, insists this will not happen, but Hanson looks keen to fight all the way.

For Hanson, this could be the second deal the company has walked away from in less than a week, after its exit from the Ranks Hovis McDougall fight. The company would enhance its reputation for not overpaying, but perhaps at the expense of its reputation for clinching any deal at all.

Costain may have maximised its proceeds of sale by an unspecified amount but at the cost of even greater uncertainty, and this will continue to be reflected in the share price.

OECD backs monetary union in Europe

THE currency market turmoil in September, which forced the pound out of the exchange-rate mechanism, should reinforce the determination of European Community governments to conclude economic and monetary union as soon as possible, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In its latest *Financial Market Trends*, the OECD says the fact that the taboo on realignments within the ERM has been broken after more than five years is a source of greater instability, as it has undermined confidence in some of the currencies.

To undo this damage, the report calls for further convergence of interest rates and the removal of doubts about ratification of the Maastricht treaty. "Rather than casting doubts on the prospects for monetary unification, the recent events should strengthen EC members' resolve to conclude EMU as swiftly as possible," it says. The OECD argues that an irrevocably-fixed exchange rate, or common currency would have avoided the recent market assault.

Accountancy rethink

THE Accounting Standards Board has changed its mind over new rules for the accounting treatment of loans that have been sold to third parties by being turned into securities. Most securitised mortgages will be given a linked presentation showing gross value, but deducting non-redeemable money received from securitisation, leaving a net balance sheet figure that will not cause banks to fall capital adequacy rules. The ASB has also ruled that firms offering their American pensioners health benefits must account for them as pension liabilities in accounts for periods ending after December 23, 1994.

Comment, page 25

Prowling to cut payout

ALTHOUGH Prowling, the housebuilder, has enough land to keep it building for the next 18 years, pre-tax profits slumped from £3 million to £119,000 in the six months to end-August. Turnover held up at £18.1 million (£19 million). The collapse in interim profits reflects weaker margins and a higher interest charge of £2.4 million (£1.8 million). There is a loss per share of 0.3p, compared with earnings of 2.7p last time. An interim dividend of 1.7p has been maintained at the expense of the reserves. The board intends to cut the final dividend to 1.7p, giving a total of 3.4p (5p) a share for the year. The shares fell 11p to 71p.

Drought affects A&H

ADAM & HARVEY Group, the international distribution and steel stockholding group, saw pre-tax profits slump from £3.03 million to £2.5 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose to £20.2 million (£19.4 million). Earnings per share were 30p (33.4p). There is an unchanged interim dividend of 5p a share. Drought in Africa has affected the group, which has interests in Zimbabwe, the UK, Canada and eastern Germany. Adam & Harvey was reborn out of the remains of Stocklake Group, the trader that went into liquidation in 1991.

Dana deeper in the red

DANA Exploration, the Dublin onshore mineral exploration company, made a pre-tax loss of IRE£4 million (£2.2 million) (IRE£8,000 loss) in the year to end-January. The results were depressed by exceptional items of IRE£2.3 million. The loss per share is 30.37p (loss of 1.12p). Hardman Resources and Tolltreck Systems, two Australian companies, have taken a 57.8 per cent stake in the company. Dana has negotiated a compromise deal with its creditors, who are being discharged for about IRE£100,000.

BMSS slips into loss

BMSS, the USM-quoted timber and building materials merchant, made a pre-tax loss of £16,000 (£254,000 profit) in the six months to the end of July. Sales fell 3.2 per cent to £8.3 million (£8.6 million). Operating profits declined to £157,000 (£373,000) and interest costs rose to £173,000 (£119,000). There was a loss per share of 0.1p (earnings 2.2p) and no interim dividend (2p). Bad debts for the period were contained at just under 1 per cent of turnover. The shares fell 2p to 81p.

Renold back in black

NEW chain orders and lower costs helped Renold, the engineering company, make a pre-tax profit of £800,000 (loss of £1.3 million) in the six months to October 3, but the company has passed its interim dividend for a second year. Turnover slipped to £58.4 million (£60 million). Earnings per share were 0.7p (loss 2.6p). Chain operations are giving an improved performance with UK orders up on last year and the French business returning to profit.

Rentokil buying spree

RENTOKIL Group, the environmental services group, is buying Creative Planting, a tropical plant services firm in Washington DC, for £6.5 million initially, and up to £9 million depending on 1992 and 1993 profits. Argyll Services, a London-based office and retail cleaning contractor for £750,000, Rowland Compliance Testing, an electrical appliance business for £150,000 and Wessex Hygiene Services, a kitchen servicing firm, for £110,000.

Wardle Storeys pegs dividend after rise

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

WARDLE Storeys, maker of plastic products and safety equipment, has pushed ahead with margins and profits despite the difficult economic climate, increasing pre-tax profits from £8.19 million to £9.24 million in the year to August 31.

Brian Taylor, the chief executive, said market conditions were now more difficult than at the same time last year and there was no sign of improvement or even a rational change in economic policy that might lead to such an improvement.

He said: "Recessionary conditions are becoming more widespread worldwide and exchange rates have yet to stabilise." The dividend is being maintained, a 12p final payment making a 16p total.

Mr Taylor said the sudden fall in interest rates would severely reduce interest income, which accounted for £3.32 million of the pre-tax profit for the year, while the marine liferaft side, after a noticeable weakening in the



Taylor: positive cash flow

second half of the year, would continue to suffer in the short term.

He said the group as a whole had seen positive cash flow last year despite continuing significant capital spending, and there was only a small decrease in interest income in spite of much lower interest rates. Wardle Storeys shares advanced 2p to 419p.

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CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY AT HARROGATE

Delegates take cabinet and Treasury to task

By ROSS TIEMAN

BUSINESS leaders yesterday rounded on the cabinet and the Treasury in an extraordinary outpouring of discontent.

Delegates at the CBI's national conference, meeting in Harrogate, scoffed at the Chancellor's mistaken promises of recovery, at the over-long battle against inflation, and at the quality of Treasury research and advice. They made plain that the government must deliver meaningful changes in policy in Thursday's Autumn Statement if their confidence is to be regained.

Opening the main economic debate yesterday, Sir David Lees, the chairman of the CBI's economic committee, spoke of a new economic theorem: Lamont's Law. It states that any economic indicator will invariably turn down once the Chancellor identifies it as a portent of recovery," he said.

Rising unemployment was prolonging the recession by discouraging household spending. The brightest spot on the economic horizon, the relative strength of British exports, was under threat from economic slowdown in Europe and America, and the breakdown of the Gatt trade talks. "We find ourselves in the grip of a vicious recession that shows little sign of abating," he said.

The fight against inflation was yesterday's battle, Sir David said. "It is not the battle of today. The battle we need to win now is against the lack of confidence which is holding back growth and investment in the UK economy."

Sir David added: "We are looking to the Autumn Statement to deliver much of what the CBI has been arguing for in recent months. The government must contribute to investment-led growth by increasing its own capital spending. Spending on transport infrastructure would provide orders for British companies and help make business more efficient."

The government must maintain its commitment to training by ensuring the

Training and Enterprise Councils, which administer schemes, have sufficient funds.

The government must also take steps in its Autumn Statement to help the housing market and householders by preventing unnecessary repossession, and to ensure repossessioned properties were refurbished for re-letting.

British exporters must be backed by a system of export finance which matched anything available elsewhere in the world. These measures could be financed by containing the public sector pay bill, awarding increases only where merited by productivity gains.

"There is sufficient headroom within the public expenditure plans for the capital expenditure that the nation needs, if the cost of providing public services is rigorously controlled," Sir David said.

However, "the government may find itself needing to increase taxes to reduce borrowing," he said. "I very

much hope that this can be avoided, but I am clear that whatever else happens, tax increases on the business sector must not happen." He added that there was an urgent need for the government to reform Advance Corporation Tax, which imposed an unfair burden on international companies.

Sir David also restated the CBI's desire that sterling should return to a system of managed exchange rates, but said it would be wrong to move in that direction until interest rates across Europe had fallen in line with the needs of the UK economy.

The Chancellor's Mansion House speech cut little ice with Sir David.

"I would have been much more impressed if the Chancellor had gone further and invited general discussion on a greater degree of independence for the Bank of England," he said. Further cuts in interest rates were needed. Sir David said interest rates could be raised again if that were

necessary to combat inflation, but that deflation was now a greater danger. He issued a call for capital allowances to restore levels of company investment which have been falling for four years.

Sir Michael Angus, the president of the CBI, said none of the 1,000 delegates needed to be reminded of the impact of recession. Some businessmen "look ruin in the face". Yet Britain had achieved the highest productivity growth of any G7 country in the second half of the 1980s.

Britain enjoyed the best industrial relations in Europe, an internationally-respected body of commercial law, the best financial services in the world, fairly low corporate taxes, the English language and a decent way of life.

"But we also need to have confidence in our government," he said. Events had undermined its credibility. "Confidence will only be restored by effective economic management." Recent utterances from ministers had been encouraging. "We now need to see action." Sir David's criticisms were echoed by many industry leaders. Dis-senters were few.

Philip Goldenberg, of SJ Berwin, City solicitors, said that "if the government's manifesto had been a prospectus, it would have landed the entire cabinet in jail."

Sir Ian Wigglesworth, of John Livingstone & Sons, said good, competitive companies were going into receivership because of a slump in orders.

Victor Watson, of J Waddington the games maker, said the Treasury's figures for output and wage inflation in the printing industry, for which he is a spokesman, were simply wrong. How then could officials give good advice?

Sir Brian Hill, for the building industry, said stimulating the housing market was crucial to recovery.

With typical vigour, Alf Gooding, of the Gooding group, said that sterling's devaluation could not provide the answer to industry's problems. He called for a national coalition government.



Lamenting Lamont's Law: Sir David Lees opened the main economic debate

Shephard makes an appeal for the jobless

By PHILIP BASSETT

THE government yesterday made a direct appeal to employers to give jobs to the unemployed.

Speaking before a further rise in the number of people out of work is announced this week, Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, took the opportunity of addressing the CBI conference and asking its members not to "shut out" the unemployed.

City analysts expect figures to be published on Thursday by Mrs Shephard will add a further 30,000 or more to current unemployment levels. On the same day, the government will announce a new package of measures aimed at helping the unemployed.

Mrs Shephard, who already knows what the new figures will be, said: "Don't shut out the unemployed." In an unusual appeal direct to employers, she said: "What you do makes a difference. Just as unemployed people need to be active, employers need to consider them actively. When you have vacancies, advertise them in the JobCentre. When you have vacancies, interview unemployed people. If you are unsure, try them in work trials. Speaking later to reporters,

EMPLOYMENT

she said she had not meant that employers were "cold-shouldering" the unemployed. She said unemployment was an immediate problem which had to be tackled successfully.

She also announced the government is to launch a new drive in the spring to emphasise the importance of voluntary qualifications. On pay, Colin Stanley, chairman of the CBI's industrial relations committee, urged companies to lead by example by applying to directors the same low or nil pay rises they were considering for their employees.

If employers wanted that approach to stick, he said, "you should think about beginning at the top, in the boardroom. Never mind what the established formulae for handling directors' pay remuneration committees and all the rest — may say: if staff are to take little or no rise, why not the board?" Digby Jones, of Edge & Ellison, Carlisle, told Mrs Shephard bluntly that people in Britain now "don't trust the government. And until they do this recession will not be over."

A number of delegates made clear to Mrs Shephard their concerns that budgets for the private sector led Training and Enterprise Councils might be cut in the Autumn Statement. Mrs Shephard acknowledged the "coded" and other messages she had been given to take back to Whitehall, but refused to be drawn on the settlement she had reached for her department in the cabinet's prolonged decisions on public spending.

Overseas subsidies under fire

POWER

BRITAIN should be prepared to take retaliatory action against countries that subsidise their industries unfairly with cheap electricity, Sir Michael Angus, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday (Ross Tieman writes).

Although he refused to be drawn on what form such action should take, he insisted: "If we can't get the competitive disadvantage taken away, we must be prepared to retaliate."

Sir Michael, chairman of Whitbread, the brewer, told delegates that the government should look again at the nuclear levy, which adds an 11 per cent surcharge to power bills to support state-owned atomic power producers.

Failing such a solution, Sir Michael said, the government may have to return to a system of subsidies for big power users, ended during privatisation of electricity.



Bridging the Gatt gap: Sir Leon wants new talks

Averting a trade war must be top priority

By DEREK HARRIS

THE prospect of international trade wars following the failure of the Gatt negotiations brought impassioned pleas for a rapid solution.

Martin Laing, chairman of John Laing, the construction group and chairman of the CBI's overseas committee, said: "In the Gatt Uruguay round we see governments forgetting why and on whose behalf they are negotiating. We need the promise of trade growth that a successful conclusion to the talks can bring. We do not need the trade wars and protectionism that stare us in the face."

Steve Cuthbert, chief executive of Brent Chemicals and chairman of the CBI's southern region, seemed to sum up many delegates' feelings when he condemned the prospect of trade wars as "sheer madness".

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the EC Commission, had said earlier a successful outcome to the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks was a priority. "No other development could do more to restore confidence

in the world economy. No step could provide better opportunities for the world to move out of recession. The other side of the coin is equally clear. There is no event more likely to turn recession into slump than failure in these talks and an ensuing trade war."

He said success was within reach because the gap between the protagonists was "very narrow" and he wanted the European Commission to appoint a negotiator to relaunch the talks immediately and "give him our full confidence and support".

With that narrow gap largely concerning how much French farmers get for rapeseed production, delegates listened closely to David Naish, president of the National Farmers Union. He said some people in European agriculture might want the Gatt talks to fail, but added: "I want them to succeed. British agriculture initially will be adversely affected but ours is a big industry. British farmers

will still deliver the goods. Every industry must be given the chance to compete in Europe and the world on equal terms."

A trade war must be averted, and before Christmas, said John Harrison of the British Knitting and Clothing Federation. He wanted international action to bring realistic levels for Southeast Asia currencies — such as China with its extensive textile production — which have been kept low by being pegged to the American dollar.

Mr Laing urged a concerted drive by government and industry to target an increase in Britain's share of world trade over the next five years. He called for a "clear and unequivocal statement of policy" by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, who is due to address the conference today.

Underlining the need of government support for industry, Mr Laing also stressed that companies could not opt out of taking on global competition: "We as companies

need to outstrip and continue to outstrip our competitors... We simply cannot leave any markets to them."

He also criticised attitudes at government level, however, saying: "Too often our experience in the market is that our competitors enjoy a greater measure of political and financial support from their governments than we do."

Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman of Guinness and of the CBI's Europe committee, said the Maastricht treaty was needed because of the declining competitiveness of European business. "Otherwise, the single market will begin to unravel very quickly," he said. Sir Anthony wanted an option for sterling to go back into the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) at some point when conditions were right.

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Small firms recovery 'needs few handouts'

By PATRICIA TEHAN

SMALL businesses could help drag Britain out of recession without any costly government handouts, according to a letter to John Major from the Forum of Private Business.

The FPB says small businesses can "lead the country out of recession given low-cost government help". According to a survey of forum members, small firms could grow by an average 16 per cent if the government would curb the activities of "rogue directors" who shrug off debts by winding up one business and start another immediately; introduce legislation on late payment of debt; simplify red tape; extend quarterly payment of PAYE and national insurance; and allow payment of VAT a quarter in arrears.

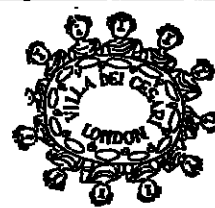
Stan Mendham, chief executive of the forum, said yesterday that small firms would also welcome a cut in interest rates. But if the government provided low-cost help, small

firms could grow the economy out of recession and create up to two million jobs in the next four years.

The forum, which represents more than 20,000 small firms, said its survey showed 61 per cent of firms criticised the government for being "uncommitted to small firms".



Mendham: low-cost help



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ASB retreats with dignity

The Accounting Standards Board has beaten a clear retreat over the issue of the treatment of securitised loans in the balance sheets of banks and other lenders. The retreat has, however, been dignified and even stylish. Banks were furious at proposals made a year ago that would have forced them to put mortgages back on their balance sheets when they had, in effect, sold the rights to repayment to institutional investors. This conflicted with the Bank of England's treatment in calculating whether banks had enough capital. Though the Bank's rules would still have applied, the balance sheets would have looked more risky. The ASB evidently saw securitisation as just another shifty exercise in off-balance sheet finance that should not be allowed if, as was usually the case, the banks retained some commercial interest or control.

New proposals made yesterday manage to satisfy the ASB's desire for disclosure on the balance sheet while avoiding the implication that mainstream securitised loans are risk assets. Under the novel new treatment, the gross amount would be shown but the securitised portion would be netted off on the asset side of the balance sheet. Banks are still not satisfied with some of the detail. In particular, the ASB has taken a tougher line on securitisation of revolving assets such as credit card balances. It is, quite rightly, suspicious of the true commercial reality and risk of such deals. This should provoke a further debate, which might just end with the Bank rather than the ASB rethinking.

Efforts by the ASB to promulgate a full exposure draft on off-balance-sheet finance have been held up for months because of the impasse over securitisation. The delay may, however, have been productive. Having developed what it calls "linked presentation" for securitised loans, the ASB may well be able to apply this elegant technique more widely.

Please remain calm

Credibility has always looked the Achilles heel of GPA, the world's largest aircraft leasing company, because its remarkable progress has depended on three interlocking factors: a steady flow of finance from lenders, steady sales of mature aircraft leases to institutional investors and the health of its airline customers. The failure of its ambitious international flotation in the summer has brought far worse consequences than Tony Ryan, its chairman, and his illustrious board might have imagined. It precipitated a progressive loss of credibility that shows unhappy signs of feeding on itself, even though GPA's basic leasing business still seems to be in good shape.

The failure of the share issue both left a financing gap and raised indefinable doubts over the company. That combination undermined alternative financing plans. A second, proposed \$750 million aircraft lease securitisation package had to be shelved because of uncertainty over the credit rating of customers and that, in turn, led to demand for a planned issue of convertible preference shares drying up. That leaves GPA in uncomfortable talks with its bankers over money and covenants that will need to be resolved before the company can raise finance elsewhere. Such a crisis can be resolved, albeit with some pain and retrenchment. GPA does, after all, still have one of the most impressive shareholder registers available. Morale is weak, however, because of boardroom musical chairs, because many employees bought shares, because aircraft orders have had to be scaled down heavily and because factions appear to have formed. The non-executive directors have not earned their keep. Dr Ryan has the strength to emerge from this dive, but he will have to learn lessons and change his style.

Dogma must fall by the wayside on Russia's road to economic reform

Wolfgang Münchau
says President Yeltsin's
privatisation policy has
to be balanced with an
industrial strategy
to avoid collapse

Eastern Europeans often use a curious analogy: economic reform and sex. They point out that, in both cases, the process is less predictable than the outcome.

The transformation of eastern Europe is a fascinating case of an uncertain economic process with a certain outcome, provided one remains an optimist. But then, politicians are notorious optimists. In central Europe, the odds must now favour successful reform. In a few years we may be able to say the same for Russia, where the odds at this stage do not look nearly as good.

President Yeltsin, who yesterday came to Britain to sign an Anglo-Russian accord with John Major, with whom he shares falling popularity, presumably knows the principle rule of reform politics: as long as people believe in the eventual success of reform, even if it might be several years away, their support can be counted on. But the reforms hit trouble when the public loses confidence in the government and, in turn, the outcome of the reform process. As anybody who has lived through a recession knows, confidence in the future depends greatly on welfare today.

This is the president's dilemma. Mr Yeltsin's government has arrived at the crucial point in the reform process from where the going gets tough and critics become more vocal. As a concession to his opponents, he has already made some minor tactical changes to his government by sacking some of the lesser reformers, but so far, the president has been able to keep the Civic Union, the main opposition, at bay.

Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, one of the most rampant economic reformers in eastern Europe, seems secure for the time being. This means reform continues in the same direction, although not necessarily at the same speed. This need not be a bad thing.

As a purely technocratic and bureaucratic process, economic reform has done well. It has not improved the living standards of the population, but this has not been its function in the short term anyway.

There have been some successes, particularly in the field of macroeconomics. In other aspects, the reform process was misguided, especially some aspects of microeconomic reform, where the focus has been too much on ownership and not enough on industry and production. As "voodoo economics" are becoming less fashionable in the West, one can assume that eastern European eco-



Key adviser: Professor Richard Layard would prefer company ownership to be transferred to the workers

omic policy, too, may shed some of the western dogma. Or, as Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, once remarked: you do not start with a stock exchange.

Macroeconomic reform has been quite encouraging in Russia. The most important measure was price liberalisation, which happened at the beginning of this year. Subsequently, the main emphasis has shifted towards stabilisation, with mixed success.

Inflation (*) fell from an artificially high monthly rate of 245 per cent in January (the direct result of free prices) to a monthly rate of 10 per cent in August, but has risen since, amid mounting political pressure on the government to relax its stabilisation policies. Any further fall in Russian inflation would lead to a further rise in unemployment.

Unemployment in August was only 1.3 per cent of the workforce but rising steadily. If unemployment rose to western European levels of about 10 per cent, Russia would probably not be able to finance what would then be a large social security system

without further western aid. The present social security system is surprisingly sound. An unemployed worker receives the full wage of his previous job for three months and then a declining percentage of it throughout the next year, after which he would be given the statutory allowance of 1,350 roubles, which is the minimum wage and minimum pension, representing about one quarter of the average wage.

The central economic aspect of the social security system is that it allows, even encourages, labour mobility. There can be no successful economic reform without some degree of macroeconomic stabilisation, but, politically, there can be no stabilisation without the necessary funds for a social security system. This is one of the key areas where western help is needed.

The second important macroeconomic area where urgent action is needed is the restoration of trade between the republics of the former Soviet Union. This has been outlined in a

pamphlet by Jozef van Brabant (*), the principal economic affairs officer at the United Nations. His proposal is for a \$5 billion package to help establish a payments union. His argument is that a successful transformation requires profound and fast domestic reforms, including, in principle, the adoption of a convertible currency. However, he wrote that "little can be gained from currency convertibility when there is not a semblance of macroeconomic stability, competition, firms, property rights, full microeconomic autonomy, flexible labour relations, effective intermediation and other 'institutions' of the market".

Like elsewhere in eastern Europe, the crunch lies in microeconomic reform, the reform of commercial and property law, the set-up of the market's institutions, such as fraud offices, anti-trust bodies, tax and value-added tax collectors.

Among these, the most controversial among the public, politicians and economists, is the privatisation process. Private ownership is the key ingredient of any capitalist system,

and privatisation is, thus, a legitimate means to achieve this goal. The question is how and at what price?

Russia's privatisation programme is the largest in history. The government has adopted a voucher privatisation scheme for large companies, whereby each citizen is entitled to his or her share in Russia plc. The system is similar to Czechoslovakia's, though with greater worker and management participation. Small companies are being auctioned off to the highest bidder - the most common method in eastern Europe. By July, 11 per cent of the total had been sold, but the process has since accelerated.

The enterprises with more than 1,000 employees and R150 million in assets, have been converted into joint-stock companies and have yet to go through the privatisation process. The method is, to some degree, determined by the companies' managers and the staff. The plan is to sell 7,000 companies by the end of next year, equivalent to about half the country's industrial capital.

Professor Richard Layard, of the London School of Economics, one of the key economic advisers to the Russian government, said the system was somewhere between the elaborate method adopted in Poland and the Czechoslovakian Big Bang approach. He said it would have been preferable to transfer the ownership of the company direct to the workers, but politics favour vouchers because it gives the entire population a share of the country's industrial assets.

In the end, as experience has shown elsewhere in eastern Europe, the need to create a private sector will almost certainly have to be balanced by the need to retain an industrial base, even if that means retaining state-ownership for longer than would otherwise have been desirable. In Russia, no industries have a greater need of restructuring than the military and oil industries.

President Yeltsin acknowledged in his speech to the Stock Exchange yesterday that the priority was not "to follow theoretical models but to move forward to a civilised market". He said: "The reality of today is such that, in the transitional phase, we cannot cast aside the levers of state management of the economy."

The shift in emphasis from privatisation towards restructuring has been noticeable elsewhere in eastern Europe where economic reform is more advanced than it is in Russia.

It will probably happen in Russia, amid a realisation that the revenues earned by oil exceed the dubious benefits of economic freedom without the necessary resources. This is why a so-called slowdown in economic reform, as it is sometimes misleadingly called, is not necessarily a bad thing. * Russian Economic Trends, published quarterly by Whurr Publishers Limited, 19B Compton Terrace, London N1 2JN. Tel 071 359 5979. ** Unravelling the Ruble Rouble Regime, by Jozef van Brabant, European Policy Forum, 20 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mrs Bottomley regrets...

CABINET ministers were thick on the ground at the Confederation of British Industry conference in Harrogate yesterday eager to pick up ideas from business leaders on what to do about the economy. But to the anguish of many male delegates who, despite hangovers from the previous night packed eagerly into a 7.30 am breakfast meeting, one key minister failed to show. The minister missing from the "health in the workplace" gathering was Virginia Bottomley. As delegates helped themselves to fruit juice and kedgee they were handed a letter - dated yesterday morning and signed in the health secretary's own hand - saying she much regretted being unable to join them. As one - male - delegate from a Training and Enterprise Council muttered over his coffee: "I needn't have bothered to get up if I'd known she wasn't coming." Other delegates suggested that perhaps she had made herself unavailable because unlike Michael Heseltine, Michael Howard and Gillian Shephard, the industry, environment and employment secretaries, she had not been given a slot on the main conference agenda. Baroness Cumberlege, junior health minister in the Lords, had the unfortunate task of substituting for her. "I have the feeling," she told the cast-down businessmen, deprived of the health secretary's presence, "that three-quarters of the world is in love with my boss." It is not yet clear



"He has not listened to a word we've been saying."

whether the CBI's delegates now form part of the quarter which is not, but experienced observers agreed that it did come to something when they heard one visitor muttering: "Ah well, I made a mistake. I knew I should have gone to breakfast with Michael Howard."

Union surprise

GAVIN Laird, leader of the AEEU engineering and electrical union, had a surprise - though not an unpleasant one - at the Confederation of British Industry conference in Harrogate. As reported in this column yesterday, the AEEU has a stand this year at the CBI's conference exhibition - the first time a trade union has ever taken one. The stand has been filled with union propaganda, including a calling card asking employers to tick boxes if they would like to speak to any of the union's leaders. There are not, howev-

er, any union membership forms readily available - simply because even the AEEU did not think they would be needed on the voyage to north Yorkshire. To the union's surprise, though, a manager at an engineering company approached the stand - and asked to join. Without any forms, the union was not immediately able to recruit him. They took his name, address and promised that subscription forms would be on the way.

JR No 4

MERRILL Lynch, the American securities house, has appointed an analyst to look after the utilities sector, an analyst who has the misfortune to be called John Reynolds. Nothing wrong with the name, of course, except that there are at least three John Reynolds already working in the City: the PR firm Shandwick, the corporate financier at Schroders and an equity market analyst at County NatWest. Reynolds No 4, as he will doubtless become known, joins from the electricity industry and has already, within days of arriving at Merrill, been asked to submit evidence to the House of Commons committee inquiring into coal and electricity. He was previously employed by St Clements Services, a specialised consultancy which is owned jointly by the 12 regional electricity companies, where he worked on the hideously complex rules governing the "pool" market in electricity.

CAROL LEONARD

LETTERS

Starting a water pressure movement to reduce charges

From Mr Gordon Glass

Sir, Sir Roy Watts' proud report (November 4) of "strong management and improved efficiency" leading to Thames Water's increased profits of £124 million provokes me to present another view of his business.

Since privatisation, anybody wishing to improve and convert a property into flats is held to ransom. For example, six new stopcocks off one new mains connection in the footpath for one house costs £6,000.

A plumber quoted less than

£500 for the work, but of course is not allowed to do it.

As have others, I turned to Ofwat director-general, Ian Byatt, for help, but his office only says that, despite his reservations, they are unable to intervene because the privatisation legislation enables the water companies to charge what they want.

So the watchdog is a paper tiger! In the meantime, Thames Water has consumers over a barrel.

The most outrageous quotation I have from them is a charge of £27,688 to increase the diameter of a 2m length of

pipe in the footpath from 1.5" to 2".

I want to see these charges reduced and the system made equitable.

If anyone has any ideas or contributions, please let me have them. We could start a water pressure movement.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON GLASS,
Director,

Centaur Estates Management Ltd,
136 Lower Mortlake Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Give effective date of base rate cut

From Mr J. Sheridan

Sir, The last base rate cut triggered reductions in interest rates as expected; however, in addition to giving building societies free publicity when they announce such cuts you should make absolutely sure that you also publish the effective dates.

For example the September reductions are not to take effect until January, in some cases.

The effective date should be given as much prominence in

the story as the size of the reduction.

Again, the effective date should be when the consumer has to pay.

Don't be fooled into giving a date a month before the date of payment.

Yours faithfully,

J. SHERIDAN,
Martindale,
Blackboys Road,
Cross-in-Hand,
Heathfield,
East Sussex.

Act not to blame for Barlow Clowes disaster

From J.A. Morgan

Sir, May I correct the small blemish in Jon Ashworth's interesting and informative article in *The Times* of November 5.

There is an implication that the Barlow Clowes disaster was a failure of the Financial Services Act regulation.

For once the blame lies elsewhere. Barlow Clowes had been operating for many years

before the Act came into force. Like BCCI, it applied for membership of Imro. For the record, neither of them made it.

Yours faithfully,

J.A. Morgan,
Chief executive,
Investment Management
Regulatory Organisation,
Broadwalk House,
5 Appold Street,
EC2.

No proceedings

From J.C. Henderson

Sir, On reading "Maxwell scandal persuades City watchdogs to add bite to bark" (November 5) I was very concerned by your implication that Capel-Cure Myers might be subject to disciplinary proceedings by the Securities and Futures Authority in connection with the Maxwell affair. This is untrue, as evidenced by the following extract from a letter which I received on 5 November 1992 from Mr John Young, chief executive of the Securities and Futures Authority.

"With regard to the article in today's *Times*, I confirm it is not correct that SFA is considering disciplinary proceedings against Capel-Cure Myers in connection with the Maxwell affair."

Yours faithfully,

J.C. HENDERSON,
Chief executive,
Capel-Cure Myers Capital
Management,
The Registry,
Royal Mint Court, EC3.

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[illegible]

FT-SE VOLUMES MAJOR INDICES LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Abbey Natl 1,600	Carlson Com 253	Land Sec 316	Scott Hndr 181	New York (midday):	FTSE Euro 100: 1043.29 (+5.01)	LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES			
Adia-Iron 566	Cons Vlytla 751	Legat & G 556	Scott & N 302	Dow Jones 3243.30 (+3.24)	Brussels 5520.01 (+13.06)	Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 78.2 (day's range 78.2-78.7).			
Anglian W 844	Con Union 146	Lloyds Bk 1,500	Scott Power 1,400	S&P Composite 418.24 (+0.66)	Paris Cax 472.10 (+4.54)	Period Open High Low Close Volume			
Angli Grp 2,700	Couminals 240	M&B Cardn 185	Seans 780	Tokyo Nikkei Ave 1641.75 (+52.76)	Zurich: SKA Gen 410.6 (+0.1)	Dec 92 27280 27340 27110 27240 3993	Mkt Rates for Nov 9		
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	London: FT A All-Share 1276.44 (-2.62)	Dec 92 93.75 93.75 93.60 93.62 17969	Amsterdam 2,707.4-2,759	Range	Close
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De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Gold Minst 69.3 (-1.3)	Jun 93 94.26 94.33 94.21 94.26 3561	Copenhagen 9,275.0-9,290	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Euro Index 109.66 (+0.52)	Dec 92 96.28 96.28 96.24 96.25 987	Dublin 9,907.5-9,910	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Govt Secs 95.30 (-0.38)	Mar 93 96.37 96.37 96.23 96.24 797	Frankfurt 11,395.21-1,170	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	Bergsma 27036	Dec 92 101.20 101.22 101.15 101.10 209	London 21,585-21,586	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Gold Minst 69.3 (-1.3)	Mar 93 101.20 101.22 101.15 101.10 209	Madrid 20,570-20,580	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Euro Index 109.66 (+0.52)	Dec 92 108.94 108.94 108.91 108.90 19009	Montreal 9,112-9,121	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Govt Secs 95.30 (-0.38)	Mar 93 101.20 101.22 101.15 101.10 209	New York 15,835-15,835	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	Bergsma 27036	Dec 92 107.80 107.80 107.75 107.76 1286	Osaka 8,250.0-8,250	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Gold Minst 69.3 (-1.3)	Mar 93 107.25 107.25 107.20 107.20 660	Paris 8,250.0-8,250	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Euro Index 109.66 (+0.52)	Dec 92 91.52 91.62 91.46 91.57 38172	Stockholm 9,112-9,121	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Govt Secs 95.30 (-0.38)	Mar 93 91.53 91.60 91.50 91.57 3011	Tokyo 18,745-18,745	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	Bergsma 27036	Dec 92 90.41 90.41 90.36 90.38 320	Vladivostok 1,702-1,721	1 year	3 years
De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Gold Minst 69.3 (-1.3)	Mar 93 91.53 91.60 91.50 91.57 3011	Yokohama 2,166.1-2,166.1	1 year	3 years
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De La Rose 2,100	Marfa Spr 1,600	Smith Trans 2,500	Seans 780	Hong Kong Hang Seng 6267.91 (+47.10)	FT Euro Index 109.66 (+0.52)				

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES									
Report: Wheat physical markets remained quiet and a stronger sterling, eventually ignored current factors and after trading 70p down values spent the rest of the morning in very thin London coffee futures hit a new high during early trade before turning flat to end in near markets.									
CRUDE OIL (Brent) 10.10 -0.05									
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PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT

Richard Ford meets a prison manager who is loosening some of the shackles

Selling the cellblocks

Private sector management and greater competition are key parts of the government's strategy to improve fundamentally the running of the prison service, a public sector monolith left untouched by the Thatcherite revolution. Next April the prison service becomes a semi-autonomous unit. The intention is to remove the Home Office from involvement in its day-to-day management.

Many prison governors hope that freedom from the shackles of Whitehall will provide them with the opportunity for greater personal initiative and the chance to concentrate on offering the 44,000 prisoners in England and Wales a constructive regime built on better relationships between inmates and staff.

To anyone brought up on the traditional image of a prison governor as a military style martinet, Andrew Barclay comes as a surprise. Far from barking orders, he sits in a modern colour coordinated boardroom, and could easily be mistaken for a fully paid-up member of corporate Britain.

Only the occasional glimpse of the bunch of keys attached to his belt and the sight of a high perimeter fence topped with barbed wire indicate that his management task is at one of Britain's newest top-security jails. At 45, Mr Barclay is one of a new breed of men emerging at the top level of the prison service, anxious to shake off its poor image.

Few public services have so needed an overhaul. Only those inside the prisons recognised that change was overdue and that governors had to be given an opportunity to manage. "The thinking at individual prisons is way ahead of thinking at headquarters, because we are able to react to feelings and demands within the prison and from the prisoners," Mr Barclay says.

A sociology graduate from the University of Kent, he became the first governor of Whitemoor prison at March in Cambridgeshire, after climbing the ranks through service at Albany, Pentonville and Norwich jails, an attachment with the New York City department of correction and time at prison



Andrew Barclay: allowing prison officers to show initiative should improve relations in the jail

service headquarters in London.

For the past 12 months his task has been to establish Whitemoor as a fully operational prison. This has involved ensuring that 600 staff and their families settled to a new life in the bleak Cambridgeshire fens, and the admission of 486 prisoners, including 100 lifers, 140 serving more than ten years and 230 serving between four and ten years in jail.

Every new prison faces a settling-in period, when the character and culture of the institution is determined. Staff as well as prisoners arrive from other establishments with expectations and attitudes born of experience in other penal institutions. Mr Barclay's job has been eased by a management structure designed to assist the running of a modern prison rather than a Victorian jail. He now heads a nine-strong management team with 15 intermediate managers and 24 group managers.

The intention is to devolve responsibility away from the governor's office, freeing him to think strategically and encouraging greater initiative on prison wings. There used to be too many people reporting directly to the governor,

and everything in writing came across the governor's desk, including MPs' letters and every bit of correspondence relating to inmates. It was a paternal organisation, but I want senior managers to get on with running their own areas. I now have only eight people reporting to me.

Before the prisoners arrived at Whitemoor, Mr Barclay's first task was to get the jail accepted by local people, who were understandably uneasy about the prospect of a top-security jail on their doorstep. He spoke to local groups and charities to tell them how the prison would contribute to the community.

Local estate agents, financial advisers, building societies and insurance companies held meetings with prison officers to ease their arrival in the district, while inside the prison week-long induction courses were held to outline what was expected of them.

But the most difficult process during the past 12 months has been establishing the ethos of the jail. "What we found in each wing was that we would go through a honeymoon period in which it

appeared the everything had settled down. Then there would be a period of challenge. In a high-security prison there are a lot of long-term prisoners, many wanting to challenge the regime."

A number of initiatives have been introduced by Mr Barclay to humanise the prison, as well as providing individual officers with greater responsibility. Special children's visits allow inmates to spend time with their children in rooms equipped with toys and games. "It is important for prisoners to be normal parents, to play with their children. We hope it will strengthen family links." He has also developed a personnel officer system on each wing. The intention is that a prison officer will become the first point of contact when inmates' difficulties have to be resolved.

At Whitemoor, Mr Barclay believes he has the correct management structure and that once the prison has settled down he will be able to turn his attention to the more positive work of providing prisoners with constructive ways of spending their sentences. He must hope also that agency status next April does not result in yet another upheaval in prison management.

High speed, low cost and tailor-made

County councils are embracing distance learning and management disciplines in staff training

The distance-learning approach is reinforced by tutorials, and this is the aspect of the programme which Jacques Corbyn, who manages the support services for members of the council, found most helpful.

"The members of our tutorial group frequently contacted each other between tutorials to discuss the topics we were studying and gave each other support," explains Mrs Corbyn. "The programme also provided a good forum to get together with people from a whole variety of departments in the council, such as social services, education, planning and highways, which don't usually have contact with one another."

Distance-learning programmes that are tailor-made for local authorities do not have universal support. Peter Evans, management development adviser for East Sussex social services, maintains that authorities are very individual in the way they approach management, and cover a wide range of activities from employing dustbins to looking after old people. He favours general material which helps people to find out how their own organisation works.

Richard Penn, who combines his role at Bradford City Council with tutoring in management at the Open University, sees great benefit in getting people from the public and private sectors to work together on management issues.

"Tailored programmes are often highly appropriate for local au-

thorities," says Mr Penn, "but mixing people from different backgrounds in an open course makes the participants realise that many management issues are common to organisations of every kind. When managers from a large plc and a local authority sit next to each other in a workshop, they discover shared problems which they can help each other to resolve."

However, Ms Good says, the links between interests in the two sectors are not always obvious. "Subjects such as consumer issues and the European aspect were alien to us," she says. "At first we couldn't see the relevance of case-studies about cement companies or paint manufacturers, but after a while we were able to identify the common issues."

Management concepts such as customer orientation or quality control may seem irrelevant to



Valerie Good: seeing her department's services to the elderly in a new light

some of the services offered by local authorities. Care cannot be measured. But Ms Good now looks at the way her department presents its services to the elderly in a new light.

"It's about making sure that our services offer: that they are in places like the library and the waiting room where people will find them," she says. "And that the print is comfortably large so that our customers—the elderly—can read them. We have learnt to be much clearer about what we do, who we do it for—and what it costs."

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

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DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Applications are invited for the above post available from 1 April 1993 following the retirement of Mr T A Thomas. This is a key appointment in one of the country's leading universities with plans for expansion which make it one of the most exciting environments in which to work at a senior level in the area of finance.

The appointee will be a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Team responsible for financial planning and the management and monitoring of the University's finances, and will be the main adviser to the University on financial policies and procedures.

Applicants should preferably possess a good honours degree, be a member of one of the recognised accountancy bodies, and should have substantial financial management experience at a senior level in the public and/or private sectors. Good management and communication skills are essential.

The salary will reflect the senior nature of the post within the UK higher education system.

Further particulars from the Director of Personnel Services, The University of Sheffield, P. O. Box 594, Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH. Tel: 0742 768555 ext. 4144 (0742 824144 outside office hours). Applications, including a full CV and the names and addresses of three referees, should be submitted by 30 November 1992 marked 'FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF DR JOHN PADLEY, REGISTRAR & SECRETARY'. Ref: R213.

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Must be capable of working at top level in both politics and business, and of leading and building the unit.

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It provides an opportunity for the successful candidate to join a highly motivated team who work in one of the country's leading Hospices.

It will be both fulfilling and demanding (24 hours availability) and will suit a person who enjoys challenging work in an environment where the loving care of patients and their families is paramount.

You will be required to negotiate with Health Authorities, support the highly professional team and you will have sound financial and general business ability.

A generous salary, a full measure of job satisfaction, and relocation expenses are available.

Apply in writing to Dr A. Kingsbury, Chief Executive, St. Barnabas' Hospice, Columba Drive, Worthing, BN13 2QF, setting out personal details and summarising the strengths and contribution potential you feel you would bring to this job, including your cv and names and addresses of three referees. Closing date for replies - Thursday, 3rd December 1992.

This is an equal opportunity appointment.

Lincoln College, Oxford
Development
Director

The College is seeking a first rate fund-raiser to lead a Development Programme to follow a successful £6M Campaign, which will end in July 1993.

Applications are invited from men and women with a proven fund-raising record, an outgoing personality, and entrepreneurial and management skills. They should be capable of presenting a project at board room level. A graduate would be preferred. A five-year contract, with the possibility of renewal, is offered.

Total remuneration up to £35,000 pa depending on experience.

Letters of application with full CVs and details of two referees (all in duplicate) should be sent in confidence by 13th November to Alan Finch, Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, London E1 6AQ.

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Sandwell College, one of the largest Colleges of Further and Higher Education in the country, has a vacancy for:-

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Salary circa £25,000 p.a.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Further details and an application form are available from: Personnel Section, Sandwell College of Further and Higher Education, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 0PE.

Telephone 021 556 9011

(A 24 hour answering service is in operation)

Sandwell College is committed to an Equal Opportunities Code of Practice.

Closing date for the above post is 24th November 1992.

Interviews will take place on 30th November 1992

HIGHER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS

Central London

Vacancies exist for up to 8 Higher Intelligence Officers in the Defence Intelligence Staff in Central London.

Higher Intelligence Officers in the DIS are principally concerned with the collation, analysis, assessment and dissemination of information on the composition, organisation doctrine, activities and capabilities of the armed forces and logistic infrastructure of certain foreign countries together with associated politico-military studies. There are also a number of posts dealing with industrial, scientific and technical information on weapons systems and associated equipments and some involving more general administrative and co-ordinating functions.

Candidates for Higher Intelligence Officer posts should be at least 30 years of age (although exceptionally good younger candidates will also be considered) with a good general education and a keen interest in and good knowledge of international affairs. Relevant experience, preferably in a responsible position in the Armed Forces or Volunteer Reserve Forces or in defence-related areas of Government service is desirable.

Salary Scale: £15,929 - £18,632 pa. plus Inner London Weighting of £17,500pa., with further increments, depending on performance, up to a maximum of £21,798 plus Inner London Weighting.

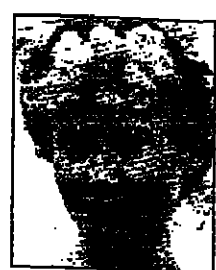
Promotion Prospects

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 27 November 1992) write to: Miss F M Eagle, Ministry of Defence, CM(A)(2)(S)1, Room 345, Somerset Hall, 2 Somerset Street, Bath BA1 5AB.

Please quote ref: S89/1/23 on all correspondence.

The Ministry of Defence is an equal opportunity employer.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.



TELEVISION page 30
Another class-conscious comedy reaches the screen, from the creator of Reggie Perrin

ARTS

MUSIC page 31

The Wigmore Hall is back in business, and Elvis Costello leads the chorus of approval



TENDER IS THE NORTH: From today, London celebrates the arts of the Nordic countries in a month-long festival

Northern lights dispel the gloom

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor finds unsuspected links among the many Scandinavian artists on show this week

Anyone who pictures Scandinavian art as all darkness and gloom is in for a pleasant shock in *Border Crossings*, the flagship exhibition of the festival "Tender is the North", which is occupying most of the free space in the Barbican Centre, as well as at the Design Museum and various ancillary sites. There is some darkness and gloom, but seldom together.

Northerners (even Scots) react badly to suggestions that a preoccupation with brilliant colour, found in many Northern schools of painting, might come from the artists' being starved of colour in everyday life. The average Icelander or Finn does not see things that way: for them the long Northern night is alive with all the colours of the aurora borealis, and the Northern summer is as brilliantly (if briefly) tinted as any tropical rainforest.

Therefore the association between dark colours and depressive sentiments does not naturally exist. The point is neatly made by some of the earliest art in the exhibition: a group of paintings by Edvard Munch. These are not the earliest Munches around: the show at the National Gallery, which opens on Thursday, is centred on his work of the 1890s, while at the Barbican most paintings date from 1910-1915. But even here, before he had spectacularly lightened his palette, the grimest subjects — *The Murderer*, or *By the Deathbed* — are lifted by rich and vibrant colours.

If Munch was definitely neurotic, Carl Fredrik Hill was quite mad, and certified so. But unlike most of the so-called psychotic painters (he was schizophrenic), Hill was thoroughly trained as a painter before his years of aberration. His sane landscapes are competent but ordinary; for him, madness was clearly a liberation, which left him haunted by monsters but basically on friendly terms with them. Also, his colours became much jollier, almost childlike in their unquestioning brilliance.

Nor was Strindberg a model of a happy uncomplicated life, but his paintings, though mostly of very

dark landscapes and seascapes, avoid the painful neuroticism of his most characteristic plays. In this grey view of life, even when unenlivened by the odd brilliantly coloured fungus, there is something akin to a philosophic calm.

This show does clearly indicate that some sort of genuine continuity can be established among these 14 very disparate artists, from Hill (born 1849) to Hulda Hakon (born 1956). On the spot, unsuspected links suddenly show themselves.

The curious painting of the Swede Evert Lundquist, looking back hopefully to classical principles of order and balance, and yet constantly ruffled by his excitable brush-strokes, suddenly presents itself in a perspective provided by the visual art of Strindberg —

natural phenomena take on personal characteristics and everything seems in a state of constant flux: stones turning into trolls, girls turning into streams.

Another intriguing figure is the Dane Edvard Weie, represented here by four works of unmistakable distinction. Weie is notable for having had the briefest retrospective on record at the Danish National Gallery in Copenhagen. The day his big rediscovery show opened, all the gallery staff went on strike, and did not allow the gallery to be reopened until shortly after the show had closed. He clearly did not deserve such a fate: the classical references in his work gradually dissolve into increasingly abstract shapes, but the rigorous sense of composition, and of something beneath, instinctively apprehended, remains intact and wholly individual.

The main Barbican show is a feast; but anyone wishing to drink deeper has only to look around. There are no fewer than 11 other shows scattered around in the lobbies, the library and the Concourse Gallery — this last a large show of paintings from the last 12 years by Frans Widerberg: very bright, very fraught, very cosmic in their scope and subject-matter. The three shows at the Design Museum take up the British connections, explaining how the gospel of Scandinavian Design, understood mainly in terms of stripped wood and Merimekko colours, was put over at home and then spread irresistibly abroad in postwar years.

● *Border Crossings*, Barbican Art Gallery (071-638 4141), tomorrow to February 7

● *Frans Widerberg*, Concourse Gallery (as above), tomorrow to December 15

● *Scandinavian Design* and two related shows, Design Museum (071-403 6933), Thursday to February 28

● *Art from Above*, Shad Thames Gallery, Thursday to December 10

● *Karolina Larusdottir*, Gallery 10 (071-491 8103), tomorrow to November 26

● *Richard Cork will review the National Gallery's Munch exhibition on Friday.*

Nature starts to take on personal characteristics: stones turn into trolls, girls turn into streams

perhaps not altogether accidentally, since apparently Lundquist, still going strong at 88, prides himself on having been born in the same street as Strindberg. The extravagantly gestural art of the Dane Asger Jorn: both abstract and expressionist without being exactly what Americans at the time called Abstract Expressionism, looks back towards Munch in its colours and its powerful emotions, and forward to his fellow Dane Per Kirkeby.

Though many Icelandic artists are dazzling colourists — among them Karolina Larusdottir, showing at Gallery 10, and several of the newer artists showing at the Shad Thames Galleries on Butler's Wharf under the general title *Art from Above* — the principal representative of Icelandic painting at the Barbican is not of that breed. Johannes Kjarval does have an exquisitely subtle sense of colour, but he seldom comes right out and stuns you with it. Rather, he uses it to summon up a mysterious world of personal mythology, in which



Birdlife transformed into an extravagantly gestural abstract: the Danish artist Asger Jorn's *Song of the Swans*, painted in 1963

Even the sagas have a Nordic authenticity

MUSIC: Hilary Finch previews the key musical events of the festival, and (right) gives her personal selection of highlights from the concerts on offer in London during the next month

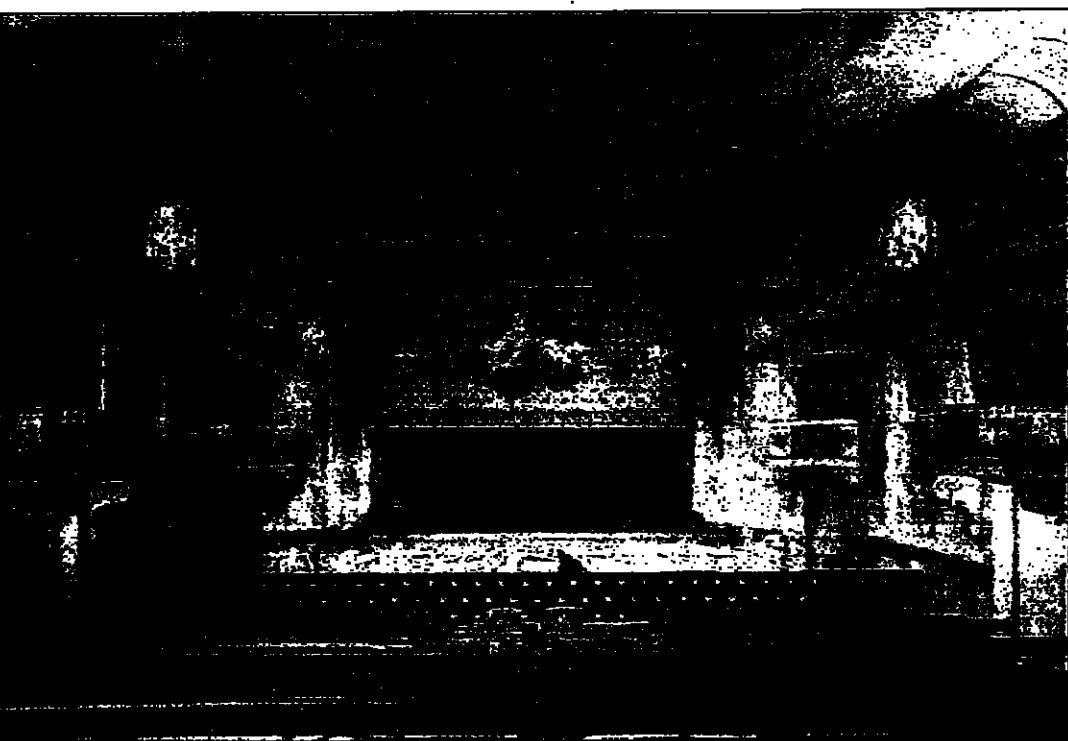
Having survived two minor gaffes in its launch, the Barbican's "Tender is the North" is on course to prove itself the most comprehensive festival of Nordic culture in Britain for many years. Nordic mind you: their subtle "A festival of Scandinavian arts" irritated delegations from Finland and Iceland who know all too well that Scandinavia comprises only Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Finland, though, can hardly feel slighted. With a major Sibelius cycle, a specially commissioned premiere from Magnus Lindberg, and with Kaija Saariaho appointed as artistic director of the festival within-a-festival "New Music at the Place," Finland finds itself with a major festival presence.

For its part, Iceland, on the geographical edges of the Nordic world, was peeved at its comparatively low profile. More music was slotted in, an Icelandic "fringe" appeared under "associated events," and the country's president, the mettlesome and highly cultured Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, was invited to lead a discussion on Nordic identity.

That identity can certainly cause confusion. The other little gaffe revealed that the festival's artistic director, Humphrey Barton, clearly has his eyes fixed firmly on the ground when (and if) he visits the northern latitudes. One of the great sights in the summer, he writes in his introduction, is the Northern Lights: one season, of course, when the aurora borealis is totally invisible.

Others at the Barbican, though, have been more observant. Simon Rattle's work with the Danish composer Nielsen has been assimilated in a valuable cycle; the North's leading young soloists have been spotted; an outstanding season of Nordic film set up; and music from Stockholm's current hottest ticket, Ingvar Lidholm's new Strindberg opera, *A Dream Play*, slotted into the programme. Theatre is weak: dance, thanks to problems with venues and cash, non-existent.



The Drottningholm Court Theatre: 18th-century atmosphere to be recreated at the Barbican

The festival opens tonight with a royal gala concert by the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra in the Barbican Hall, in front of the heads of state of the five Nordic nations, among them Queen Margrethe of Denmark, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, and King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway, along with the Queen and Prince Philip. Under the Latvian conductor Mariss Jansons, the Oslo Philharmonic has risen to the orchestral world's top league and the concert tonight and tomorrow are a typically bold mixture of the familiar (Grieg Piano Concerto) and the unknown, including the

British premiere of a concerto for synthesizer and orchestra by the young Norwegian composer Olav Anton Thommessen.

At the heart of the festival, however, is an evening that focuses on an institution in which an important aspect of Nordic musical activity, past, present and future, is encapsulated. The Drottningholm Court Theatre, just outside Stockholm on Lake Mälaren, has, for the last 13 years, been the workshop of Arnold Östman and his painstaking and influential experiments in period performance of opera. Elisabeth Söderström takes over from Östman as artistic director

next year and presents, for the Barbican on November 21, a "fully consumed spectacle", recreating the unique and authentic workings of the little 18th-century court theatre.

The Drottningholm Theatre Saga, written and narrated by Söderström and Ture Rangström, will tell the story of the rediscovered and restored Swedish opera house in an evening of music, dance, words and pictures. The theatre's own orchestra will play in the sets — replicas of those used in the 18th century — brought over to the Barbican Hall for the occasion.

Östman, leaving Drottningholm and opera for the new challenge of

conducting 19th- and 20th-century orchestral repertoire as a freelance in Europe and the United States, looks back at his years there with only one regret: that he was not radical enough. The man who, with the tiny Gustavian theatre and its archives as his teacher, researched vocal and instrumental techniques of 18th-century opera and documented his vivid recreations of its dramatic art in 13 televised operas and a definitive series of Mozart recordings, feels he was not provocative enough.

"If I were to stay on, I would go for more radical declamation, smaller voices, more improvisation, more educating the musicians in matters of intonation. A lot of what we do is still in the fashion of our time. We are too keen on getting big contracts, too much influenced by the taste around us. We must go on from here. It is of no interest to restore a skeleton without giving it breath too."

His successor made her debut at Drottningholm in 1947, after having a rigorous training in the language and gesture of classical opera as a student. This is something Söderström wants to continue at Drottningholm. In her initial three years there, she wants to go back to the operas of Lully and Rameau. The names of Nicholas McGegan and Mary Skeaping are mentioned. "Ballet has been banned in recent years. Everything was met by economic refusal," she says. "I'm still looking for someone to restore the importance of dance at Drottningholm — not just choreographed movement by non-dancers."

There is likely to be less Mozart for the time being. "It's about time to leave him alone. But I want to give a perspective on him, to look at works which influenced him and were more successful than his own at the time. As you have noticed, I have given up the chance to die a natural death. I have a very long nose, and I'm going to poke it into everything!"

● The Drottningholm Theatre Saga is at the Barbican Hall (071-638 8891) on November 21, 8pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: CONCERTS

● **MASTERCLASSES:** Elisabeth Söderström gives public masterclasses to students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on December 2 and 4. Earlier in the festival, masterclasses will also be given by trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger (Friday) and trombonist Christian Lindberg (November 25). Guildhall School Music Hall, 2pm. Admission free.

● **LSO SIBELIUS CYCLE:** Sir Colin Davis conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in a series covering all the Sibelius symphonies, as well as less familiar orchestral works. The *Kullervo* Symphony is given a centenary performance on December 6, the 75th Finnish Independence Day, preceded by carols and a talk by Keith Bosley, translator of the *Kalevala*, Finland's national epic. Barbican Hall, November 26, 29, December 6, 10, 13, 7.30pm.

● **THE MAIDEN IN THE TOWER:** A rare concert performance of Sibelius's opera given by the Covent Garden Festival Orchestra and soloists under Peter Ash. St Giles, Cripplegate, London EC2, November 29, 6pm.

● **ICELANDIC AVANT GARDE:** A chance to discover the music of one of Iceland's most stimulating young composers, Askell Másson, in a midday concert given by the Reykjavik Wind Quintet and Evelyn Glennie. St Giles, December 11, 1pm.

● **NEW MUSIC AT THE PLACE:** Five days of new Nordic music devised by Finland's Kaija Saariaho, whose own new work, *Amers*, will



Sibelius: an LSO symphony cycle at the Barbican

be premiered in the opening concert on December 8. Iceland's Thorleif Sigurbjörnsson faces Messiaen on December 9; Denmark's Per Norgård plays opposite Ligeti on December 11. The Place Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), December 8-12, 7.30pm.

● **HAKAN HAGEGARD:** The Swedish baritone gives a recital of Grieg, Stenhammar, Schubert and Wolf on November 17 as part of the Wigmore Hall series of Nordic song recitals. Other highlights include Iceland's Gunnar Gudbjörnsson on November 27, Finland's Soile Isokoski (soprano) on December 10 and Anne Sofie von Otter on December 12. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (071-935 2141), 7.30pm.

● **ISLANDICA:** A band which fuses ancient folk music with rock and newly composed work makes a rare visit to London on November 15 at 4pm. Barbican Foyer, Folk Weekend, November 13-15.

All bookings (except for Wigmore Hall and The Place) on 071-638 8891.

مكتبة الأمل

LONDON

LOST IN YONKERS: Maureen Lipman and Rosemary Harris play the difficult relations that two bright boys are dumped on. Neil Simon's Pulitzer prize-winning comedy. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket, WC2) (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

THREE BRIDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD: The return of the brilliant West Enders' witty and penetrating look at the world of modern art. With Hamish MacLennan as the upper-class man playing the way past the easels. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket, WC2) (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Harris, Christopher Goss play all 26 parts in Giles Hogewill's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket, WC2) (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

which includes the Greg Piano Concerto, Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* and the UK premiere of *From Ashes to Diamonds*. (Theatre Royal, Haymarket, WC2) (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

PHOENIX DANCE COMPANY: The Leeds-based troupe comes to Sadler's Wells for a one-week season that features the London premiere of a new work by the American choreographer Bebe Miller. (Sadler's Wells, WC2) (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

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TELEVISION: Matthew D'Ancona on three very different types of nostalgic humour

Remembrance of things past

SO GOODBYE then, 'Allot, 'Allot — or so it seems. Last night's first episode of the new BBC 1 series was overshadowed by the prospect of Allied invasion, and thus, one presumes, the beginning of the end of this daft wartime comedy which has poked relentless fun at the French resistance and its escapades.

Overshadowed, that is, for those who have loved the hotelier René, his implausible womanising and the comic mantra: "Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once." For others, the end of 'Allot, 'Allot will be a blessed release and a victory for good taste: witness last night's plotline, which had the Colonel and Lieutenant Gruber, René's German allies, dressed as French prostitutes, trying to escape in a hearse, while René's harem of female admirers grieved mistakenly around a smouldering pair of his boots.

Still, I am not sure that the battalions are so clearly drawn in practice. I have always liked to think of myself as an 'Allot-sceptic, ready to say "Non!" when weaker souls tried to switch on René and co. Yet last night's typical riot of gross innuendo and gratuitous cross-dressing had me laughing as usual. More effectively than anything since Inspector Clouseau, 'Allot, 'Allot has mocked British xenophobia by playing up to it. Nothing can match René's absurd franglais, or the sight of an English officer, pretending to be a German officer, pretending to be a woman, muttering: "Tongues will wag."

'Allot, 'Allot exploits the convention that wars and their bloody legacies are endured by reducing them to humour. Get Back, which follows on BBC 1, plays the opposite game of dwelling nervously upon a social problem by turning it into a joke.

The third episode of this recessionary comedy followed the continuing struggle of Martin — whose business, big in the boomtime, has suddenly gone bust — and his nouveau riche family to adjust to life in his father's down-at-the-heel council flat.

Martin, played by the excellent Ray Winstone, is the kind of chap who sings Pavarotti's greatest hits while doing an early morning fry-up. But he's moved far enough up the social ladder to feel ashamed about going to collect his benefits or taking his traumatised wife down to the sleazy social club. "We are not fellow tenants," she barks at his gloating father. "We are temporary residents."

There are few roaring belly-laughs in this series, but much acute social observation. In the way that *Only Fools and Horses* captured the fast-buck enterprise culture of the mid-1980s, *Get Back* satirises the decline and fall of the upwardly mobile who suddenly found themselves downwardly mobile in the 1990s. Who would have predicted a return to kitchen sink drama five years ago?

The English obsession with class is also the backbone of *The Life and Times of Henry Pratt* (ITV). This four-part drama, charting the progress of a



A Pratt through the ages (clockwise from top left) Bryan Dick, Jack Deam, Andrew Nicholson and Robert Nicholson grow up as Henry

young northern lad, is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by writer David Nobbs (creator of *The Fall* and *Rise of Reginald Perrin*), and suffers some of the defects of that genre, tending to twee nostalgia in its exploration of humble origins left behind. The edges of the screen were too hazy for my liking. But the writer's brilliant sensitivity to language and some excellent performances make this one to bear with.

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on the decoration without function that is Yevgeny Shvarts's political fairy-tale

ONCE upon a time, in a land far away, there lived Yevgeny Shvarts, a doctor's son. When he was little, the land was ruled by a king who called himself the Tsar. At last a strong man came and overthrew him, but soon another man took his place and the longer he ruled the crueler he became, so that people like Yevgeny, who wanted to write plays about him, had to pretend their plays were only fairy-tales.

Even this trick did not always succeed. For, when the ruler's guards saw the dress rehearsal of a play called *Dragon*, they guessed what it was really about and promptly put a stop to it. Not until the wicked ruler was dead, and poor Yevgeny too, did the people

This is a dead parody

of that land feel safe enough to act his play. This did not mean the play was out of date because, as Yevgeny knew full well, some people like to have a dragon ruler over them, then when a man kills their dragon, they soon let him turn himself into a dragon, too.

Enter Alan Cumming, usually a quick-witted chap, and Uitz, who is clever at designing things, and the two of them convert Yevgeny's fable into the silliest show you can imagine. At

Dragon Olivier

first sight it looks as if it could be fun, because Uitz has considered what a partnership of Heath Robinson and Chagall might have designed and comes up with a revolve-piled high with puppets and bicycles. But this turns out to be decorative, not functional.

And oh, what patronising, simple-minded stuff their brave young hero Lancelot has to utter, telling the people to think for themselves and say the dragon within. Maybe nobody could

make him bearably heroic, but Tony Armatrading, wandering through the part with an affable grin, certainly fails to do so. The two Marks — Heap and Saban — contribute some welcome comedy as a pair of stammering, hyperactive villains, but their antics are woefully disconnected from the crimes they are said to commit.

Do not expect to see a dragon anything like the fire-breathing monster on the poster. Not a head, not a claw appears because, we are told, the dragon turns into human shape in order to speak. Although Bill Thomas's chalk-white, squirming humanoid looks seriously nasty, there's no disguising the cop-out here.

In the valleys of the shadow

Forever Yours Marie Lou BAC, Battersea

FOR this insidious emotional car's cradle of past and present, regret and anger, spun by two dead and two living characters, Thin Language Theatre Company has turned to an early work by Michael Tremblay, the prolific Quebecois playwright. The group derives its name from the Welsh conviction that English is "a thin language", although through an oversight in my education I have yet to come across the Welsh Shakespeare, Keats or Shelley.

Cultural aggression extends to identifying with the French-Canadian man and inflecting Tremblay's blue-collar Catholics with the lilt of the valleys. But the names remain Gallic, and devotional candles on the television set and holy pictures stuck on the fridge door imply unexpected tolerance among the chapel-goers.

Never mind. What matters is the author's ability to blend past and present with increasing tension over 75

minutes, and the cracking ensemble playing that convinces you of family relationships so close that love and hate are almost indistinguishable.

The sisters Marion and Carmen recall their childhood and their bitterly quarrelling parents. The tenth anniversary of some momentous event approaches: only the play's final moments will, in flashback, reveal its nature. Although young Marion is mousy and repressed; she has stayed in the family home, now transformed into a shrine to their mother. Carmen got away and is now a country and western singer, liberated, laid-back, and slightly shocking to her sister.

Memories of their parents lead to angry disagreement. Marion (Susan Flynn, beautifully suggesting an already spinsterish youth), loathes her father, a drunken, loud-mouthed brute. Carmen (Beth Robert, cockily sensual) defends him.

All four actors, daughters and parents, are on stage throughout as the girls slip in and out of their memories. Gary Richards steers a middle course as the father: bullying enough to justify one daughter's hatred, sufficiently pathetic to evoke understanding. As the mother, Lesley Rooney comes into her own in the final revelation of sexual frigidity. Natasha Betheridge and Simon Harris jointly direct an engrossing performance.

Anarchy for the hell of it

Too Much Too Young Bristol Old Vic

DISDAIN the tawdriness of Park Street, once the most stylish shopping road in the west, and ignore the characterless mess of The Centre. Flinch at the twee antiseptic mock-history with which the city fathers of Bristol attempt to re-create the heritage they spent 30 years destroying. Pass on, luckless stranger, to the Studio of the Theatre Royal, where the Bristol Old Vic offers a baffling evening of pseudo-nostalgia for the age of punk rock.

The style is impeccable, the content vacuous. The Studio's acting area is done out as a dub, complete with real bar selling real drink. Spectators can bag a stool in the gallery upstairs or mill around on the dance floor to be delightedly jostled and insulted by the cast. The actors also provide the eight-strong band, both instrumental and vocal — shriekingly effective (Cliff Howells), infectiously funky (Patrick

Miller, sometimes unintelligible (Joanne Campbell); in short, a pretty good survey of 1970s sounds.

For, as the glowing Campbell informs us — in rather anticlimactic rhymed couplets — this is the era when Johnny was still rotten, Sid wasn't dead, and none of us had heard of Right Said Fred.

The trouble with Catherine Johnson's script is its swerving indecisiveness. Are these punks truculent, inarticulate morons? Justifiable malcontents disgusted by their no-hopers lives? Lovable idiots? The author throws in a dash of each of these and fatally undercuts anything serious she has to say about disaffected youth.

As nostalgia it does not work. An attempt to portray the punks as an updated flower-power movement in reaction against society's worthless values will not wash. The love generation, however soft-centred, had real concern about the world. The bulk of punks here seem to be nave-gazing solipsists whose rejection of false gods triggers nothing but vindictive failing. In Johnson's play simple-minded whingeing is the nearest we get to motivation. Some of the songs have a raw-edged excitement and a feeling of generalised anger, but Andrew Hay's direction puts them in a caricature setting. John O'Hara is the splendid music director.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

ART GALLERIES
The Royal Academy, London, WC2 (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

CINEMAS

CINEMAS
The Royal Academy, London, WC2 (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

THEATRES

THEATRES
The Royal Academy, London, WC2 (071-930 8800). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7pm.

ART GALLERIES

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OPERA & BALLET</

MUSIC: As London's finest chamber venue reopens, its loyal fans recall memorable evenings spent in its civilised surroundings

Eight cheers for the return of the Wigmore Hall

London's favourite concert hall is back in business. On Thursday the 91-year-old Wigmore Hall reopens its doors after 17 months of renovation and expansion. For £2 million (provided by the owners Prudential, and Westminster City Council, which runs the hall) it has a new restaurant and backstage facilities, and the flamboyant mural over the stage — showing the Soul of Music rising above the nettles of materialism — has been restored to its 1901 glory. Otherwise the 550-seat hall, with its marvellously warm acoustics and its famously intimate foyer, remains as it was.

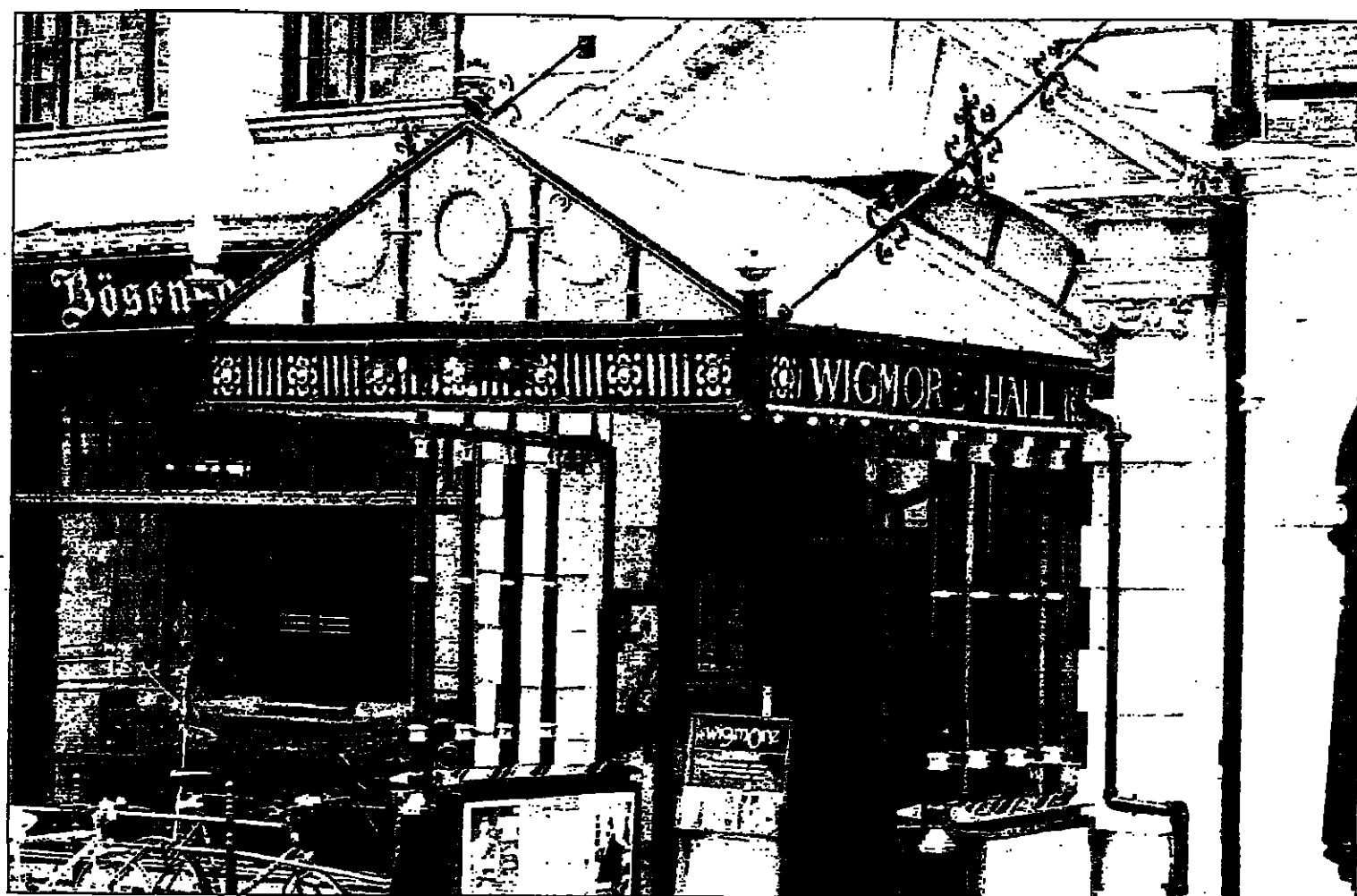
That will be a relief to probably the most loyal, and certainly the most knowledgeable, music audience in London. The history of the Wigmore Hall (or Bechstein Hall as it was known until anti-German sentiment forced its piano-maker founder out of business in 1916) is littered with famous names and great occasions. Caruso, Schnabel, Arrau, Segovia and Prokofiev all performed there. Arthur Schnabel made his British debut there in 1912 and, 64 years later, gave his farewell recital in the same hall.

The 15-year-old Daniel Barenboim took London

by storm when he played the *Hammerklavier* at the Wigmore; the 19-year-old Sybil Thorndike also played the piano at the Wigmore, before deciding that the stage was her thing. Beecham conducted his first London concert there in 1906; and one of the finest song cycles of the century — Britten's *Serenade* for tenor, horn and strings — was premiered there. The Wigmore heard the British debuts of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Boris Christoff and Victoria de los Angeles.

And so on. It is a hall that might easily have stagnated on its memories. Luckily, William Lyne, its manager for the past 26 years, has restored its reputation as one of the world's top chamber-music venues while encouraging bold thematic programming. Under his supervision, a new generation of brilliant chamber-music and vocal artists has been brought to the Wigmore.

As Lyne prepares for the launch of his star-spangled Gala Reopening Festival, which begins this Thursday and continues to the end of the year (details from 071-935 2141), *The Times* asked eight distinguished members of the Wigmore Hall audience to recall the most memorable nights they have spent in the hall.



Making an entrance: at the Wigmore. London audiences heard some of the most outstanding musicians of the century for the first time

ALFRED BRUNDEL

The celebrated Viennese pianist has graced London's musical life for the last four decades

I CAN remember playing at the Wigmore Hall more than 30 years ago. That was the



evening I became aware that the fog, so prevalent in London at the time, was creeping into the hall through the back doors. But I am glad to say that it is always a pleasure to perform at a venue which is so steeped in performances by the world's greatest artists, past and present.

I am delighted that the Wigmore Hall is to reopen later this week after its long period of refurbishment, especially in the knowledge that the recent renovations should forever banish the fog from the inside of the hall, as it has long been banished from the outside.

NICHOLAS JONSON

Radio 3's controller was formerly a music critic who attended hundreds of Wigmore Hall recitals

"NOT the debut week again!" we would cry, as *The Times*'s story-headed arts editor condemned his cub critics to another penance at the back of the Wigmore. He knew what he was doing: there was no better education in what made a performance good or great or grisly. If the latter tended to predominate, that was back in the days when the hall's fare was luckier. Eager debutants, sometimes trailing their accompanists at eight bars' distance, would vie with ageing teachers, one of them memorably received by an endless tribute of pupils bearing potted plants.

Bill Lyne, the hall's unobtrusively musical manager, changed all that, and reasserted the Wigmore as the place where every top artist wanted to appear. Going became a treat: Peter Pears, roused to final flights of eloquence by Murray Perahia's sublime piano playing; Julian Bream, looking as if he had just found his guitar music under his bed; and Jesse Norman threatening to lift the hall from its very foundations. The early music revivalists with their lutes, viols and harpsichords sounded at their best here. So too did string quartets and pianos new and old: wonderfully argued Haydn from the Lindseys and the Takacs; thoughtful, serene Bach from András Schiff. We've missed it, every week it's been closed.

JANE GLOVER

Conductor, broadcaster and scholar Jane Glover recalls the genesis of a Wigmore institution

Having grown up out of London, I missed a lot of the great recitals of the 1960s. But I was lucky enough to be at the birth of the Songmakers' Almanac. Those talented singers, brought together by the pianist Graham Johnson in about 1976, have done so many wonderful things since. I love sitting upstairs. I remember a *Winterreise* done by John Shirley Quirk when it really seemed as if he was whispering into my ear. The other great memory I have is of when the London Mozart Players were 40 years old in 1989 and we did an exact



replica of a programme that Harry Blech presented at the Wigmore in the early days. I was worried about how we were going to get an orchestra onto that platform. But we squashed in, cheek by jowl, and it was a glorious atmosphere. It is the hall's intimacy, and its golden sound, that makes it so special.

STEVEN ISSERLIS

The fine young British cellist represents a new generation that has discovered the Wigmore

I REMEMBER spending my hard-earned pocket money to buy a ticket for Arrau Rubinstein's last performance. I waited and waited until I found someone wanting to sell a ticket; Albert Finney was selling his extra ticket but I didn't buy his. I paid £20 — a lot of money for me in 1976, when I was 17, but I knew it was my last chance to hear him. I remember seeing Lauren Bacall taking a huge cigarette out of a cigarette case; she was looking very glamorous.

Schumann's *Carnaval* was the best; the Beethoven was very interesting, kind of aristocratic and I liked that. The Ravel was a bit hard; the Chopin started to go wrong because he couldn't see. It was not the greatest concert but it had its moments because it was the last time Rubinstein ever played in public. He apologised because he couldn't see; it was sad but it was still exciting, there was a sense of history, I never saw anything quite like it again.

The hall is a wonderful venue. The sound is so open, resonant and mellow, and the atmosphere is bound up with the sense of history. It's intimate, but yet there is something grand about it in a good sense. For the past few years it's been on a real high. When I was a little child, going to cello recitals, there, it was a place for debuts; now it's a place for the great artists.

URSULA VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

The widow of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams first attended in the 1940s

MY FIRST memory of a performance at the Wigmore Hall was of hearing Ralph's Double Trio performed there. In the early days I had an attic flat just round the corner; everybody remembered the address because it was number 7½. Quarters used to pop in to rehearse in my flat just before their Wigmore recitals. I also had a viola player living downstairs, so I got to know the viola parts of the string quartet repertoire particularly well.

I have been going to the Wigmore regularly ever since. Its wonderful for voices, wonderful for chamber music, and of course wonderful for the company; at many concerts, I feel I know at least a quarter of the audience.

A favourite occasion? There have been so many, but I do remember one exceptional series of recitals of British songs — everything from Elizabethan times right up to the 1950s — promoted by the BBC back in the mid-1960s. It brought together just about the finest singers in the country. And of course I cannot forget the marvellous Kathleen Ferrier singing competitions that have been held there; so many superb voices have been discovered through those events.

I shall certainly be at the Wigmore Hall for the gala on Thursday night. It must be the best invitation to a party I have had in years.

ELVIS COSTELLO

The rock singer-songwriter first started to attend the Wigmore Hall regularly about four years ago

PROBABLY my favourite night was an Anne Sophie von Oter recital. I'm a very big fan of her singing. The first half contained songs I'd never heard before by the Swedish composer Sigurd von Koch that were amazing, and the



second half was Brahms; it was a beautifully balanced programme. I spent the next 18 months trying to find recordings of the Koch songs, but they weren't available even in Sweden, so I have haunting memories of that night.

Sometimes you go along to the Wigmore to see somebody and end up seeing somebody else. I remember we went to see Brigitte Fassbaender; she was indisposed and we saw Olaf Bär instead, which was a tremendous bonus. And this January there is an extraordinary run of concerts: Bär and von Oter are singing together. I'll be there to see it.

JOHN TUSA

The managing director of BBC World Service has been a familiar figure at the Wigmore for ten years

IT WAS about three years ago when I first heard Olaf Bär singing *Winterreise*, the Schubert song cycle. I hadn't heard him sing it before and when he began the first notes I thought "Oh God, why am I sitting here, because I know I'm going to be subjected to 80 minutes of spiritual misery". And it was all that... and yet it was an absolutely wonderful performance. The work is sheer descending agony from start to finish, but it has to be sustained agony otherwise it's not a great performance. This certainly was great music-making.

Another wonderful series was at the start of Mozart bicentenary celebrations last year. The violinist Gyorgy Pauk ran a series of concerts, and there were a couple of string quartets and wind music and violin sonatas that were completely ravishing.

We go to the Wigmore more than any other single musical venue in London. The quality of performances at the place is absolutely outstanding. The best singers go there... period.

And the nice thing about the Wigmore audience is that it is an audience: everybody's there because they love the music and they know about the music. We've missed the Wigmore hugely; it's left a hole in our evening activities which nothing else in London has filled. So it will be a very nice homecoming for us.

ANDRÁS SCHIFF

As performer or listener, András Schiff has fond memories of the Wigmore

ONE of my favourite artists is the Polish pianist Mieczysław Horowitz, who is now 100 years old. He hadn't played in London for ages; then, a few years ago, he was brought back by the Wigmore Hall. He makes a very special quality of sound on the piano that is totally missing today; it is so beautiful, so colourful. Today, piano playing has become very athletic, very mechanical. Generally speaking, people don't care enough about the quality of sound.

The Wigmore is ideal for the kind of music-making that Horowitz represents; it is an intimate concert hall ideal for quality that loses much of its quality when played in modern halls. The acoustics are splendid; it's not too large. Really it is like playing in a drawing room.

The trouble with music-making today is that, because of economic reasons, we try to fill halls that have 2,000 or 3,000 seating capacities by blowing up the music of the 18th and 19th centuries, which was conceived for small rooms and for audiences of 100 or 200. So it's very important for London's musical life to have halls like the Wigmore.

Song recitals are a very special art form that had almost died in London; Bill Lyne brought it back and he has all the great singers of our time singing this wonderful repertoire.

CONCERT: A different kind of piano recital at the Barbican

A classic touch and a jazzy mien

Her image is glamorous and trendy. Her following, to judge from this audience, combines apparently traditional recital-goers with those whose mien suggests they read periodicals such as *The Face* and *The Wire*. Her programme notes — penned by a scribe from the latter — posed startlingly alternative views of music history and employed adjectives as nouns. But Joanna MacGregor's recital on Sunday afternoon was seriously, challengingly, different, and eventually she brought it off with vibrant swagger.

The beginning had not promised much. Listening to Erik Satie is a pleasant, suitably cleansing experience, and MacGregor wisely kept the three *Gnossiennes* she chose (numbers 1, 4 and 5) simple. Afterwards she played, with wry sparkle, the same composer's wonderfully irreverent *Sports et Divertissements*.

Then it was time for something of substance. That came

with the six Debussy Etudes that followed. MacGregor's range of colour in these testing works seemed a touch limited — perhaps something to do with the hall's size — yet her fingers were sure and her readings bore the marks of mature forethought.

Debussy over, cue Django Bates — who else? — composer for the jazz-influenced group Loose Tubes in the 1980s. His variations on the songs "It's Only a Paper Moon" and "June is Bustin' Out All Over" both cleverly and endearingly combine fast, loose jazz with an impressionistic harmonic atmosphere. But back we were in the realms of decorative, undemanding music.

All that, however, was swept aside in the second half, which MacGregor began with Frederic Rzewski's "Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues" (1979), from whose machine-line intensity, symbol of oppressed workers, emerges touchingly its eponymous 1930s industrial song. After



Joanna MacGregor: vibrant swagger across many fields

that came another piece which mixes social realism (and old songs) with spirituality, Charles Ives's vast First Sonata.

Here MacGregor had to be at her best, and she duly obliged with a magnificent,

powerful, evocative, tenacious and finally moving reading. This all-embracing music looked you straight in the eye, which is exactly what it is meant to do.

STEPHEN PETTIT

CONCERT: A premiere from the LSO

Suited to strumming

movements have descriptive titles — "The Last Place on Earth", "Penguin Ballet" — the scenic tone-painting was more engaging for its ingenuity than for imagination. It cleverly matched the timbre of the guitar to the orchestra, especially in dialogue with a harp directly in front of the conductor.

A "Wooden Ships" movement had the nature of an evocative ballad, but others sounded in need of tauter harmonic direction to pull the content together. Williams nevertheless gave it the benefit of the same expertise he earlier brought to Rodrigo's popular *Concierto de Aranjuez*, in which he has long been with-

out peer when it comes to idiomatic fervour and delicacy of fingerwork.

The last movement of this emerged as more of a bucolic celebration than the courtly dance it usually suggests. But the conductor was alert to the finer points of balance between the soloist and an orchestra with suitably reduced strings, as he again showed on a larger scale by defining and sustaining the multi-coloured fabric of Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe*.

NOEL GOODWIN

OPERA: A neglected classic in concert

Ready to go on to the next stage

with itself: the music is simply too good, as everyone realised in 1887 and all subsequent French composers have acknowledged, to their advantage. Chabrier's harmonic language, its Wagnerian chromaticism filtered through French sensibility, his polychromatic orchestration, his piquant melodies, above all his puckish surrealist wit — all point directly to Messiaen, Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc.

Whereas in *L'Étoile*, successfully revived by Opera North, Chabrier's wit and the

zany plot are hand in glove with each other, in *Le Roi parodique* tends to exceed that which is parodied, and the straight, luscious romantic music seems to demand more than the plot is able to provide by way of setting. But for all this, I am convinced that there is enough dramatic meat for an inventive producer to make *Le Roi* work on stage, and we will see when (as is rumoured) Opera North takes it in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile, COG's concert, sung in French of varying

degrees of impenetrability, whetted the appetite. Under Michael Lloyd's disciplined direction, the big set pieces came off thrillingly. One could easily imagine a finer sound-world than that conjured up by Lloyd, the huge chorus and lusty orchestra; the barrage of noise was at times reminiscent of Berlioz in his public, open-air mode.

Some spectacular miscasting apart, the singing was good. Elizabeth Gale, who sounds more like a French soprano than most French sopranos do, threw off Minka's roudies with infectious glee. Paul Napier-Burrows's reluctant King was nicely laid-back, and Geoffrey Dolton brought true French wit to Frielli, the cuckolded conspirator. But *Le Roi* belongs on stage. Roll on.

RODNEY MILNES

ROCK: are Take That pop's last hurrah?

Children's playtime

Take That exploit the talents of Gary, "the musical one", Mark, "the cute one", Robbie, "the joker", Jason, "the sensitive one" and Howard, "the body". The pre-women who packed the Hammersmith Odeon may have planned a cordial but reserved welcome. However, when the curtain rose to reveal their heroes, a

collective scream erupted, and remained for 75 minutes. The band's performance was similarly one-faceted. It was a whirl of flashing lights, intricate choreography and bristling love songs. Gary and his chums did not engage with the crowd, but their detachment was understandable. Maintaining the show's fran-

tic pace must have required Herculean stamina.

But they do not yet have enough material to fill a set. Fully 15 minutes were padded out with a dancing competition. One must also question their sense of appropriateness. One of them threw a handful of condoms into the audience with the injunction, "If you're gonna do it, do it safely." Given the age of their fans, the condoms will decompose long before they are old enough to "do it".

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

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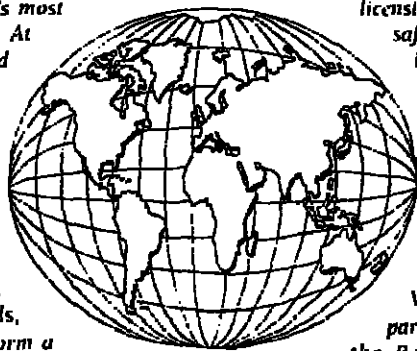
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One of Leeds' leading practices seeks a private client specialist with between 1-3PQE to handle a mixed caseload including trusts, tax planning and probate matters.

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● PRIVACY AND THE PRESS:
THE TIMES DEBATE 35

Fears are growing that the less well-off will be denied the chance to become lawyers: three views of a depressing future

A profession reserved for the rich?

Crippling costs could force trainee lawyers to give up before they start, Frances Gibb says

The legal profession is becoming a profession for the rich. Two weeks ago Mark Sheldon, the Law Society president, said that students were having to "mortgage their future income for years ahead by taking out larger and larger loans".

A profession, he said, must be drawn from a whole community, "not just a narrow and privileged stratum of society". The crisis has blown up over the problem of funding for students on their vocational final courses. There is now a severe shortage of local authority discretionary grants for the Law Society and Bar finals courses, leaving students to find funds for themselves.

Next year, when the new skills-based legal practice course replaces the current Law Society finals course, the crisis will deepen. Fees are expected to rise by 50 per cent to about £4,500.

For would-be solicitors, the main single source of funding is the law firms themselves, with one student in five now paid for during the finals course. However, only the larger — and usually commercially orientated — can afford to fund trainees through their finals course. Legal aid firms cannot do so, which means there is no guaranteed supply of trainees for that sector of the profession as there is for the City law firms.

For the Bar, there are several hundred scholarships and bursaries, but they do not cover all the places. One answer

would be if the profession could seek to persuade the government to provide mandatory grants.

Students of medicine and architecture qualify for mandatory grants. Mr Sheldon pointed out. Why not lawyers? Both branches of the profession are pressing the case for mandatory funding with ministers.

Another suggestion is for the Legal Aid Board to provide help to trainees who are going to work in the legal aid sector. Training places, Mr Sheldon said, must not be confined to the big City law firms.

In the meantime, the profession is looking urgently at bolting on its vocational course to degree courses. This has been pioneered at the new University of Northumbria, with the advantage that the four-year course (degree followed by vocational year) qualifies for mandatory grant status.

Earlier this year Lord Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, highlighted what he saw as a new phenomenon — the "financial drop-out" — the law student who is forced out of studies through lack of funds.

The public, he said, could no longer afford to have a legal profession recruited and trained on a "pre-qualification means test". It was a tragedy "not only in personal terms for the students concerned, but also for the profession and the wider public which it serves".



On campus at New Bedford College, Egham, Surrey: without the means to sponsor students, legal aid firms may have difficulty attracting recruits

Would-be lawyers face high fees and low prospects

Hardship practically taken for granted

Students are paying higher fees than ever to become solicitors. Fees for the Law Society finals course are £3,285 for the College of Law in London and an average of £2,500 at the polytechnics or new universities. And next year, when the new skills-based legal practice course replaces the existing finals course, fees will go even higher: possibly to £4,500.

For non-law students, who have first to take a conversion course (the common professional examination) the position is even worse: their fees for that course alone will be £3,255. All in all, it could cost a non-law graduate £12,265 to qualify as a solicitor.

At the same time, students are suffering from what the Law Society describes as "the dramatic collapse in the only public funding available". Financially pressed local authorities are making the funding of the law courses a low priority: between 1988 and 1991, 39 per cent of those previously awarded grants to College of Law students ceased paying full fees, and 15 per cent stopped giving grants altogether.

In a recessionary job market, articles are difficult to obtain. Over 1,800 prospective trainees receive the bi-monthly list of vacancies compiled by the Law Society's recruitment service. The current list, the result of a mailshot to every firm in England and Wales which takes on trainees, contains eight vacancies.

An advertisement in September for one trainee to start immediately at Sprecher Grier, a small London commercial firm, produced close to 300 applications. "About a third were from people who passed their finals in 1991," says senior partner David Sprecher, "many of them good applicants. At the interview stage, one offered to work for free on a trial basis."

Many students are in financial straits. One student at the University of Central England

had to borrow the maximum £8,000 over two years, and faces repayments, starting after the completion of her finals, of £175 a month for seven years.

Another, a psychology graduate, passed both the conversion course and the Law Society finals first time, funded by an £8,000 loan from NatWest. Fees alone for her two years at Manchester Polytechnic amounted to close to £5,000. Despite applications to firms all over Northern England, she has not managed to obtain articles. The bank has threatened to call in the loan, "which they have told me will mean bankruptcy, making it impossible for



Nigel Forman: no promises

me to practise as a solicitor". She is working as a volunteer in a Citizens Advice Bureau, while attempting to meet repayments of over £200 a quarter by saving £10 a week from her social security.

The Law Society is aware that such stories are discouraging many from entering the profession. In a memorandum to the Department of Education urging it to provide mandatory grants or make "softer" loans available, the Law Society said the funding crisis "will tend to narrow the social base of the profession" and "have a serious and adverse effect on access to justice". A meeting on 28 October with Nigel Forman, minister for higher education, was described by Nicholas

Saunders, the society's head of legal education, as "constructive"; it produced requests for further figures, but "no promises of major changes in grants policy".

The Trainee Solicitors Group, amongst others, fears that the barriers to those wishing to work for legal aid firms, and the danger of indirect discrimination against students from ethnic minorities, will be exacerbated next year. Institutions teaching the new legal practice course will be free to enter into contractual arrangements with firms or teaching institutions. The inference is that places may be reserved for students sponsored by large commercial firms. Reservation of places for graduates from well-established law schools is likely to hinder those from the new universities, which tend to have a higher proportion of students from ethnic minorities.

The government believes that solutions must come from the profession itself. One way would be to integrate the one-year vocational course with law degree courses. The Law Society has approved a four-year integrated course at the University of Northumbria, which qualifies for mandatory grant status, and from 1993 the vocational courses will be offered part-time. The Bar, too, is interested in pursuing this option: at present, the Council of Legal Education in London is the sole provider. But John Rowe QC, the new Bar chairman, wants to examine the possibilities of providing courses elsewhere, perhaps attached to university degree courses.

Other suggestions mooted at last month's Law Society conference were the diversion of part of the levy on practising certificates into a fund to assist students, and cross-subsidy of training between larger and smaller firms, possibly using periods of secondment.

DAVID CONN

How two firms of solicitors deal with the mountain of applications for every trainee place

One in a hundred

with offices at London Bridge and Streatham Hill, in south London. It is unusual in that its work is split between commercial and legal aid.

This year the number of applicants rose from 150 to 500 while the number of trainees fell from four to three. As before a much smaller firm the process of selection is

less formal. Academic qualifications reduce the number to about 30, all of whom are interviewed.

"We are looking for that spark, that combination of intelligence, commitment and common sense: the ability to be able to show as much concern and sympathy to the director of a major company

one day and to a battered wife the next," says Anthony Gold, senior partner.

"Over the years our interview technique has become more structured. We have a crucial test where we give each candidate a hypothetical client with a problem and ask them to proceed. Playing out this role shows the surprising dif-

ferences between similarly qualified people."

Three quarters of the trainees at Anthony Gold, Lerman and Muirhead are Oxbridge graduates. Until recently all trainees were offered a job on qualifying. Last year only one in three was asked to stay on.

Over at Macfarlanes Mr Jackson says: "The quality of applicants we are turning away makes you wonder whether some of our partners could get a traineeship today."

HUGH THOMPSON

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QUARRY DOUGLAS

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Briefcase encounters

THE contents of the briefcases of male trial lawyers can be more revealing than the contents of women's handbags. According to the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers' newsletter, Paul Paxton of Rowley Ashworths has put together a survival pack of items for use in court.

These range from the obvious, such as a calculator, to ties and razors for tidying up scruffy witnesses and counsel. The most intriguing item is a packet of condoms.

Private eye

WATCH out when Berwin Leighton is on the case. The City law firm has brought in Detective Superintendent Roy

Elsey of the City Fraud Squad as an "investigator" in its insurance and financial institution's department. Mr Elsey will be called in where there is a suspicion that losses have been caused by dishonest employees or forged documents.

Now cap that RECRUITMENT by law

INNS AND OUTS

firms may be down but the demand for headhunter services is up, says Jonathan Baines of Baines Gwiner.

So much legal work was arriving on its doorstep in Lothbury that the firm has appointed Stephen Clasper, a qualified barrister and a former finance director of the Mortgage Corporation, to

head its legal search activity. Baines Gwiner made itself popular by having a maximum and minimum fee.

De-barr'd

THE Hong Kong Bar Association's attempts to prevent fusion with the solicitor profession may have backfired. Since Amendments to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, fusion may be inevitable. A year ago, the ordinance was changed to allow solicitors to qualify as barristers but to keep their solicitor's qualifications. Now the Bar Association has lobbied to get the ordinance changed to require the transferee to remove their name from the solicitor's roll. The Legislative Council also removed the ban on barristers becoming salaried employees of solicitors' firms.

SCRIVENOR

THE TIMES LAW AWARDS 1992

PRIZES WORTH more than £6,000 await the student writer of the best entry of 800 words on "The single market: is it possible without a single legal system?" Closing date November 22. Entry forms: Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS. Helpline: 071-832 7288.

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GROUP LEGAL ADVISER

TAYLOR NELSON AGB
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Applications should be in writing to Richard Lenchbury, Head of Administrative Services, Titmuss Sainer & Webb, 2 Serjeant's Inn, London EC4Y 1LT

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CONSTRUCTION

10
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CHAMBERS

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Mr. Donald Keating QC has decided to stand down as Head of Chambers. Mr. Keating will continue to practise as a member of Chambers.

Chambers is pleased to announce that Mr. John UR QC has succeeded Mr. Keating as Head of Chambers.

Mr. Simon Hargreaves has joined Chambers as junior tenant following his successful pupillage in Chambers.

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Richard Farquhar QC	Peter Coulson
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THE TIMES

Legal Forum

RUBINSTEIN CALLINGHAM
POLDEN & GALE

A series of seminars to be hosted by law firms in association with *The Times* will start next month. In the first, with Rubinstein Callingham Polden and Gale, leading figures debate the question: "Should there be a law to protect privacy?"

The press is not in the Last Chance Saloon, it is in the doghouse, thanks to a summer of metaphorical tiffs. Some press organs will not play the Press Complaints Commission game and the watchdog is as impotent as ever.

Before muzzlers of free speech spring into action they must ask whether the law can offer effective protection against invasions of privacy. Sir David Calcutt has been asked to report on the effectiveness of self regulation of the press by the beginning of next year. His report on privacy and related matters recommended among other matters the creation of three categories of criminal offence: to curb unauthorised entry into or unauthorised placing of a surveillance device on private property to obtain personal information with a view to publishing the same and the unauthorised taking of a photograph, or recording the voice, of an individual on private property with a view to publishing the same so that the individual is identifiable.

Will they work? The private property limitation of the offences would mean that every individual who leaves his home is fair game, which rules out most of the population at least half of the time. Next, police must catch the transgressor. Since the proposed offences are usually committed covertly, detection happens after the information is published, by which time the invasion of privacy is complete.

The prosecutor must prove the offences beyond a reasonable doubt against the offender, assuming the police can find him. The proposed defences (likely to be exposure of seriously anti-social conduct — a vaguely defined version of the public interest defence) has to be overcome.

The photographer who took the photographs of the Duchess of York and Mr Bryan could, had that event happened in an England with these new criminal sanctions, could argue in his defence that he was exposing seriously anti-social conduct, as he was able to get within gunshot range of the Duch-



Sir Louis Blom Cooper, QC



Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC



Richard Shepherd, MP



Simon Jenkins of The Times

Privacy and the press: join the great debate

ess's holiday home while a sunbathing poolside police officer charged with protecting the Duchess and her family appeared to have his nose buried in a paperback. Seriously anti-social? A good jury point with no surety of a conviction.

The "exposure" victim would have a civil remedy of an injunction and statutory damages. Usually the victim discovers the invasion of privacy only after it is published in the press, making the injunction worthless. Journalists are unlikely to be deterred as newspapers will continue to indemnify those jour-

nalists against claims for damages. If the journalists are merely receivers of the illicitly obtained information they cannot be prosecuted for the proposed offences.

Such proposed offences, like other extant laws, will not prevent invasions of privacy.

The law of confidence, with one small tweak, could offer a simpler avenue to make many unjustified invasions of privacy less worthwhile. A case by case appraisal would suppress what truly should be private, but permit that which is in the public interest to be pub-

lished, thus protecting responsible freedom of expression.

Lord Justice Leggatt said in the celebrated case brought on behalf of Gordon Kaye against the *Sunday Sport*: "We do not need a first amendment to preserve the freedom of the press, but the abuse of that freedom can be ensured (sic) only by the enforcement of a right of privacy." This view was at odds with that of Lord Keith in the *Spycatcher* case who observed: "Confidences should be respected. The anonymous donor of a very large sum to a very worthy cause

has his own reasons for wishing to remain anonymous which are unlikely to be discreditable. He should surely be in a position to restrain disclosure in breach of confidence of his identity in connection with the donation."

If the victim of an invasion of privacy is lucky enough to hear about it before publication, he may get an injunction, as did Johnny Francombe when Mirror Group Newspapers attempted to reveal the contents of a telephone conversation, which had been unlawfully tapped. Most victims, however, cannot afford from their own funds to pursue empty actions for breach of personal confidences because judges will not award damages for mental distress.

Other countries in Europe have laws to deal with invasions of privacy, but those laws do not paralyse the media because judges, on the whole, make reasonable valuations of a person's privacy. But those laws do not prevent invasions of privacy from happening — in any country this is the price to be paid. But free speech is a privilege, and when abuses occur amendments must be made fairly and promptly, recognising that mental distress should be appropriately compensated.

Freedom of expression carries responsibilities but they must be respected to ensure that the public interest is held paramount.

JOHN RUBINSTEIN

Has arbitration had its day?

Despite the recession, good British lawyers specialising in commercial insurance and reinsurance are flourishing. The reason is the insurance industry's greater willingness to go to litigation. Meanwhile, trust in traditional "market practice" and reliance on arbitration are on the decline.

United Kingdom insurance and reinsurance companies have become hardened by their experience of the American judicial system, says John Sarchio, of Chadbourne & Parke in New York. "I do not believe it is a good development. But there is no foreseeable alternative, given the sheer scale of insurance disputes."

It is a trend viewed with alarm on the Continent, according to Andrew Pincott, senior partner of Elborne Mitchell. He says that are as aggressive and as commercially minded as UK lawyers.

As litigation is on the increase, so belief in the efficiency of arbitration is on the decline.

Mr Pincott insists that lay arbitrators sometimes find it difficult to see the nuance of an argument which is presented entirely orally. Stephen Carter, of Charles Russell, says that arbitration can be slow: "It used to take longer to go to court than arbitration. But not necessarily so now. The courts are not as clogged up as they used to be."

Similar criticisms come from another insurance lawyer Tim Burton, partner of McKenna & Co. "Arbitration can involve a panoply of lawyers in a procedurally less efficient environment — the worst of both worlds."

Mr Sarchio says that his firm has not been "thrilled" with arbitration. "It usually turns out to be almost as costly and time-consuming as litigation. It's now being increasingly replaced with mediation."

There are benefits, however. Mr Pincott points out that people feel "comfortable" being judged

by their peers. "Judges can be fairly ferocious. In arbitration people are bending over backwards to define honest errors." Mr Burton adds: "It is reckoned that, if legally you haven't a prayer, you're better off in a non-judicial arbitration where you may be able to succeed by persuading the arbitrator that you followed market practice."

The latter, however, has next to no legal standing. Mr Pincott says: "It is a myth that needs debunking. Market professionals are prone to invoke market practice to justify themselves. It is usually too nebulous to carry any weight."

In support of this argument, he cites a case involving Piper Alpha, in which some reinsurers were baldly asserting that market practice prevented underwriters in the LMX market from

holding covered — even though they had subscribed a slip with a printed condition plainly saying "held covered for 14 days pending renewal". "It was hopeless. Market practice cannot change express obligations like that," Mr Pincott says.

Conversely, some lawyers argue that genuine market practice has the validity of the law. Mr Butler says: "The difficulty is deciding what is market practice. My own experience is that there are not many market practices accepted by all or, by definition, you're not going to get disputes about them."

The firms most likely to suffer from reliance on market practices are those most "happily established" in the London market, according to John Young, partner with Lovell White Durrant. "Their ethos is settling disputes over a pint of beer rather than by going to law. They can't bring themselves to approach us until the law hits them in the face."

ALEXANDER DAVIDSON



SHOULD there be a law to protect privacy? Is there unwarranted intrusion by the media into the private lives of individuals?

Leading barristers Sir Louis Blom Cooper, QC, and Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, will join the journalist Simon Jenkins of *The Times* and Richard Shepherd MP to debate the controversial subject of privacy and the law. Lord Woolf will chair the debate.

The *Times* Legal Forum, with Rubinstein Callingham Polden & Gale, will take place at the London Press Centre, New Street Square, London EC4A, on Wednesday, December 2, at 6.30pm. For tickets, fill in the coupon (right). Enquiries: 071-704 9941.

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Ruthless Times

One of our candidates, attending an interview with a large London firm, asked how the vacancy had arisen. The reply took him aback. "There isn't a vacancy at the moment," said the interviewer, "but we have identified the person we wish to replace, and he will be going when the new person starts." This insight into their employment-relations policy did not do much to endear the firm to the candidate. He made no comment, however, and continued with the interview, recognising that we now live in more ruthless times.

Another candidate came to see us because she was finding her new job unbearable. From the beginning, her colleagues were hostile to her, not because of anything she herself had done but because in their eyes her arrival had been the cause of her predecessor's dismissal.

These cases are unfortunately becoming more frequent as law firms, under increasing financial pressures, take advantage of the recession either to "up-grade" their staff or to replace people with others on lower salaries. During the boom years of the 1980s, when recruitment was difficult, firms were concerned about retaining the loyalty of their staff. Today, many firms take the view that the recession will be with us for years to come and that keeping staff is no longer a problem. They have decided, therefore, (some with zealous eagerness, others reluctantly) that they have little choice but to improve their competitiveness regardless of the effect on staff morale. This is the cold, stark logic of the market, and all of us — candidates and recruitment consultants — are having to thicken our skins.

Michael Chambers

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Provincial practice seeks senior litigator to run London office. Small post following desirable to supplement firm's surplus work.

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3.30 (1m 4f) 1, Esboocoin (J Weaver, 6-1); 2, El Teranda (9-1); 3, Kate Labele (12-1) **Alveter 5** (w, 8 ran 5L 1% L Cumans. Total: £7.90; £1.80, £1.10, £2.30 £F: £47.50, CSF: £55.35, Placepot: £155.00.

Wolverhampton

Going: good (chase); good to soft (hurdles)

1.10 (2m 7f hdl) 1, Now Your Talkin (R Dunwoody, 30-100 lev); 2, Terramus (50-11); 3, Erroll Miller (25-1). 12 ran, 4, 6 f. Nicholson. Total: £1.30; £1.10, £2.80, £2.70

Methylol (10-1). The Black Monk 7-4; Tav. 13
 ran. 194, 8 R Brotherhol. Totals: £39.60,
 £5.40, £1.10, £2.40, DF: £159.70.
 120 (3m 11h): Singlesole (A Carroll, 9-4
 Tav); 2 Height Of Fun (B-1), 3. Upsiding
 (7-1); 6 ran. NR: Miss Fun, H. Bl. Mrs J
 (10-1), £3.70; £1.10, £2.20, £2.90, DF
 £59.90, CSF: £14.64, Tronost: £71.41. After a
 stewards' enquiry, result stood.
 240 (2m) 1. Triniholm (N Mann, 5-4 fav);
 2. Flang In Spring (33-1); 3. No More The
 Fool (7-2), 7 ran. 20L, 3P Dettos. Tot.
 £1.90; £1.50, £2.00, DF: £22.50, CSF:
 £28.14.
 310 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Azuk Eye (A
 Maguire, 2-1), 2. Vicomte De Valmont
 (Evens fav), 3. Bailiwholm (33-1) 8 ran. 4f.

Carlisle
 Going: *sot*
 12.45 Cm (41 110yd hdl) 1. High Altitude (N Bentley, 10-1), 2. My Desire (8-15 fav); 3. Cotic Song (10-1). 14 ran. NR: Hurricane Horace, Lo Stregone, Minor Jackson, Smart in Stable 10R, M. G. Moore. Tote: £11 00. CSF: £1.45. £1.20, £2.50. DF: £7.70. CSF: £17.69

1.45 (2m 41 110yd hole) 1, Sexy Mover (M Robson) 12-1; 2, Pandessa (S-1); 3, Corning (J-1); 12-2, Duff (D-1); 13-1, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 8

Class (4-1). 6 ran, BL 21, J Charleston Tote: \$2.70; \$1.50, \$2.30. DF: \$3.70 CSF: \$8.17
3.45 (2nd 11 fms), 1, Azilan (W Dwan, 8-4 fav),
2, Nouvelle Cousins (6-1), 3, Four Deep (12-1),
23 ran. NR Deep Call, 51, 31 Jimmy Fitzgerald. Tote: \$2.20; \$2.00, \$3.40, \$3.80.
DF: \$11.70, CSF: \$21.69.
Placepot: \$39.30.

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FOOTBALL

Roxburgh settles on small squad for Italian challenge

By RODDY FORSYTH

ANDY Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, yesterday announced an unexpectedly small squad of just 16 players, rather than the usual 20 or so, for the World Cup qualifying fixture with Italy at Ibrox next Wednesday.

Before Scotland's previous games, against Switzerland and Portugal, Roxburgh was irritated when his plans were disrupted because players were required to take part in televised matches in England while their Scotland colleagues had assembled for training in Glasgow. If every-one named in yesterday's selection survives the midweek league fixtures without injury, no others will be called up.

"We know who the standby players are and we can bring them in if we have to, but doing it this way means that we don't have people coming and going in the middle of our preparations," Roxburgh said yesterday. It is fair to assume, however, that the squad would have been slightly larger had Kevin Gallacher, of Coventry

City, and Richard Gough, of Rangers, been fit. Gallacher was ruled out beforehand and the groin injury that Gough aggravated in Saturday's Old Firm derby at Parkhead deprived the Scots of their most commanding defender, as well as their captain. Gough was also absent from last month's 0-0 draw with Portugal because he was suspended and his presence will be missed next week as it was then.

"The Italians watched us during the European championship in Sweden and they rated Gough as one of our key men," Roxburgh said. "They must be delighted that he is missing, especially since they are going to recall Franco Baresi, who has said he will come out of retirement for this one."

Roxburgh pointed out that Italy have conceded goals in the early stages of recent matches and they have not looked too secure in defence. "That is why they asked Baresi to come and help sort out the

problem. It makes them more formidable, but we always knew we would have our work cut out against them and nothing has changed in that respect."

"In every one of our past five World Cup qualifying campaigns, we have needed one big result to turn the section in our favour. We need that kind of evening again next week, especially since the Italians haven't got off to the best of starts either."

One notable bonus for Roxburgh is the return to form of Ian Durrant, who featured in the games against Switzerland in Bern and Portugal at Ibrox as a substitute. It was suggested after the Portugal game that the visit of Italy would be the proper occasion to restore Durrant to the starting eleven.

Roxburgh, of course, could not expose the player to competitive international football ahead of Rangers' schedule for the player, whose knee was reconstructed in three lengthy operations after it was shattered in a league fixture in 1989. Durrant's performances against Leeds United at Ibrox and Elland Road convinced Roxburgh that he was ready to return fully to the national side.

Baresi is one of seven AC Milan players named by Italy, who drew 2-2 with Switzerland in Cagliari in their opening group one match. Eranio, another Milan player, equalising in the last minute.

SCOTLAND SQUAD: F. Boyle (Glasgow Celtic), G. Gough (Rangers), I. Durrant (Rangers), I. Ferguson (Rangers), A. Gormley (Glasgow Celtic), P. Hogg (Glasgow Celtic), G. McCallister (Leeds United), S. McPherson (Rangers), P. McShane (Glasgow Celtic), J. Robertson (Glasgow Celtic), H. Smith (Glasgow Celtic), D. Whyte (Glasgow Celtic).

ITALY SQUAD: G. Pagliuca (Sampdoria), M. Berti (Juventus), F. Baresi (Milan), P. Maldini (Milan), A. Costacurta (Milan), D. Baggio (Juventus), A. Bianchi (Internazionale), R. Baggio (Juventus), D. Albertini (Juventus), R. Donadoni (Juventus), S. Gensini (Milan), E. Corini (Sampdoria), G. Viali (Juventus), G. Signori (Lazio), R. Mancini (Sampdoria), G. Lentini (Milan).

Gray replaces Dowie

NORTHERN Ireland have dropped Iain Dowie, the Southampton striker, for the World Cup qualifying match against Denmark at Windsor Park, Belfast, next Wednesday. He is replaced by Philip Gray, of Luton Town.

Gray's promotion follows six goals in his last four games for the first division club, and a strong recommendation to Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager, from David Pleat, the Luton manager, who brought Gray for £275,000 from Tottenham Hotspur two years ago.

In 13 games for Northern Ireland Dowie has scored only one goal, against Austria in Belfast a year ago. Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder,

player, has also been passed over, despite scoring for in the Uefa Cup last week.

Bingham will leave to the last minute a decision on the fitness of Tommy Wright, the Newcastle United goalkeeper. Richard Müller Nielsen, the Denmark manager, will pick his sixteenth player on Friday.

NORTHERN IRELAND SQUAD: T. Wright (Newcastle), A. Fettes (Preston), M. Donaghy (Glasgow Celtic), A. McDonald (Glasgow Celtic), J. Shields (Glasgow Celtic), G. Weir (Glasgow Celtic), S. Morrow (Aston Villa), K. Wilson (Blackburn Rovers), K. Black (Blackburn Rovers), C. Clarke (Glasgow Celtic), M. Hughes (Sheff. Wed.), J. Magilton (Glasgow Celtic), R. Rowland (Blackburn Rovers), G. McStay (Sheff. Wed.), R. Fleming (Glasgow Celtic), J. Quinn (Preston), P. Gray (Luton).

Birmingham City target for brothers

By JOHN GOODBODY

BIRMINGHAM City may be bought by the millionaire Wrublewski brothers, the owners of the Birmingham Bulls basketball club. The brothers are putting together an international consortium to bid for the first division club, which was put up for sale last week when the business empire of the Kumar brothers, which owned 84 per cent of Birmingham City, went into receivership.

Harry Wrublewski, the Bulls' managing director, said that business interests in the United States, Australia and Britain were involved in the bid.

A second consortium, including the boxing promoter, Paddy Lynch, and the millionaire Mike McGinnity, is also interested in buying City. McGinnity said that he was prepared to help in any way he could, "but only when I know what we have to pay for the club."

"There is no point in a consortium putting in a bid just to pay off the debts. The club needs millions spent on it, both on and off the field."

"The club was bought as a going concern for £400,000 and I have heard £4 million mentioned as a purchase price. But we just do not know what valuation the receiver is going to put on the club."

Van Basten maintains Milan's domination

OVERSEAS REVIEW BY PETER ROBINSON

THERE are few more thankless tasks in modern football than challenging AC Milan for the Italian championship. No matter how hard you try, how much you spend, how well you play, Milan always seem to be able to do it bigger and better. Ask Juventus.

During the summer, when they made Gianluca Vialli the most expensive player in the world by paying Sampdoria £12 million for his services, Milan promptly spent £13 million on Torino's Gianluigi Lentini. This season, when Juventus have fallen short of their best, they have lost while Milan remain undefeated in the league for a year and a half. And on Sunday, a brilliant 5-1 defeat of Udinese by the Turin side was overshadowed, yet again, by their magnificent rivals.

Milan's 5-1 drubbing of Napoli was the performance of the season so far in Italy. In previous years, the San Paolo stadium has been one of the most formidable in Europe, yet Milan, inspired by Marco van Basten, danced through their hosts' defence with barely a stumble. Van Basten, still the jewel in Milan's crown, scored four goals and could have had more. Even he was forced to admit that his display, and his team's, was almost flawless.

"The first one was a good goal, the second swift, the third sweet and that fourth cunning," he said. "The wind is in my favour. Milan are playing well and that's my wind." By the end of the game, even the usually partisan Neapolitan crowd were applauding the visitors.

Juventus's reaction to events in Naples was summed up by Roberto Baggio, who scored four goals himself in another outstanding individual show. "They [Milan] don't even give you the time to be pleased with yourself when they come back at you with a result like that," he said.

In Spain, Barcelona, the European champions who were dumped out of the competition last week by CSKA Moscow, bounced back to defeat Athletic Bilbao 2-1.



Baggio: overshadowed



Smiles for the Duke: The most popular exhibit at London's Victoria and Albert Museum yesterday was Duke McKenzie (Louise Taylor writes). At a special exhibition of the nation's more celebrated sporting trophies, the diminutive champion decorated himself with the three world championship belts which have singled him out as one of the most

successful British boxers in history. McKenzie, 29 last month, became the first Briton for 87 years to win titles at three different weights, and is hoping to go for a fourth.

He is pictured here displaying his belts with Steve Backley, the European javelin champion, left, and Steve Davies, the former world snooker champion.

The collection had to be insured for £10 million before the Victoria and Albert launched its Sporting Glory exhibition, which is sponsored by Courage. McKenzie's belts are among the cheaper items on show. "They are only worth about 1,000 dollars each, but they are precious to me," he said. "They are my pride and joy."

SQUASH

Australians drained by British pair

FROM COLIN MCQUELLAN IN KIEL

THERE was just enough weariness about the two Australians who fought out the European Open final here on Sunday to suggest that the young English professionals they removed earlier in the competition might begin to make real headway in the world's top ten over the coming season.

Chris Dittmar took 51 minutes to capture the title 9-15, 15-10, 15-8, 15-9 from Rodney Martin in a spasmodic match that mixed brilliance and disinterest in equal portions. He then flew back to Cardiff to lead Cannons Club in the Pimms Premier League against Leekes Wizards last night. England's leading players were also on league duty last night. Chris Walker and Simon Parke, for Lambeth Club against Surbiton in London, and Peter Marshall against Del Harris at second string in Cardiff.

These four, with Tony Hands and Danny Meddings, probably represent England's best chance of a breakthrough on the international front, although Parke, who lost for the third successive time in a first round in Kiel, seems in desperate need of motivation.

Marshall's second-round battle with Dittmar in Kiel, the highlight of the tournament in many ways, gained him ground against the world No. 2 after a chastising in Amsterdam last month.

Walker's sparkling performance against Anthony Hill brought him to his second world tour semi-final of the year and Martin's error-strewn lethargy in the last half of the final that followed intimidated just how much energy he had expended to subdue him.

CRICKET

Zimbabwe batsmen make solid reply

HARARE: Zimbabwe swiftly polished off New Zealand's first innings and replied solidly with half-centuries from Kevin Arnott and Alistair Campbell on the second day of the second Test match here yesterday.

When bad light ended play 30 minutes before the scheduled close, Zimbabwe were 173 for three after dismissing New Zealand for 335. New Zealand's last four wickets fell for 21 in 68 minutes during the morning. Rutherford added only two runs to his overnight score of 72.

Arnott compiled 68 for Zimbabwe in slightly over three hours, hitting five fours and one six. Campbell made 52, having faced 99 balls and hit six fours. Both Arnott and Campbell survived chances, the former on 37 and Campbell before he had scored. The pair put on 107 for the second wicket.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings
M J Greshbach c A Flower b Brindley 55
R T Latham c A Flower b Brindley 16
A H Jones c Perrett b Brindley 8
M D Crowe c Sumner b Crocker 140
R Rutherford c A Flower b Brindley 18-5-49-3
D M Ponder c Campbell b Tresco 6
D J Nash not out 2
M L Siva c Arnott b Brindley 1
W Watson b Brindley 3
M J Hebdorn c A Flower b Brindley 3
Extras (b 11, nb 8) 37
Total 335
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-73, 3-131, 4-232, 5-306, 6-373, 7-527, 8-527, 9-530.
BOWLING: Brindley 22-6-42-2, Bain 18-5-49-3, Crocker 15-1-55-2, Sumner 10-2-34-0, Tresco 23-1-22-2, G W Flower 6-0-0-0.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings
K J Arnott b Watson 68
A J Campbell c Siva b Patel 52
A J Perrett not out 38
M J Hebdorn not out 7
Extras (b 3, nb 3) 6
Total 173
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-73, 3-131, 4-232, 5-306, 6-373, 7-527, 8-527, 9-530.
BOWLING: Siva 15-5-30-1, Nash 10-6-29-0, Watson 18-5-49-3, Patel 21-2-70-1, Latham 11-0-11-0, G England 1, D Robinson and K Kerppe (Zimbabwe).

WEST INDIAN fast bowlers crush state champions
Perth: The West Indians completed a crushing 256-run victory over Western Australia here yesterday in their opening first-class tour match.

The Sheffield Shield champions, with a strong batting line-up, folded meekly before the pace of Kenneth Benjamin, Patterson and Ambrose and the off spin of Hooper to be bowled out for 131 in their second innings. The West Indians set the home side a tough target of 368 from 68 overs for victory.

Benjamin made a decisive early breakthrough, dismissing the openers, Veletta and Marsh, cheaply. Marsh's second failure was a blow to his hopes of Test selection.

After Andrews and Zoehrer had put on 48 for the sixth wicket, the last five wickets fell for seven runs.

BASKETBALL

Dow reads riot act at Guildford

By NICHOLAS HARLING

TYRONE Shoulders, the 6ft 7in American forward cut by Guildford Kings at the weekend, may not be their last player to suffer the consequences of the champions' double exit from Europe.

Following the departure of Shoulders, 33, for "poor performance", Barry Dow, the club's joint-owner, said: "We expect a level of play consistent with the excellence that we have come to expect. We are not going to continue paying the most generous salaries in the league if we are not getting that."

Guildford, beaten by Li-moges in the European Cup

last month, also went out of the Cup Winners' Cup last week when Shoulders missed with all his six free throws against Broceni Riga at Crystal Palace. "It was the first time my confidence had ever been that low," he said.

Dow and his fellow directors met yesterday to discuss "a new compensation strategy" for their players, designed to fulfil his objective of collecting all five domestic trophies again. Their receding hopes of a successful Carlsberg League title defence were done no harm by the surprising 79-73 defeat of the previously unbeaten leaders, Thames Valley Tigers, at London Towers.

With 20 points from Peter Scantlebury and 13 from Joel Moore, the Towers' good form was promising for the national team, which meets Russia in the European championship semi-final round, second leg in Manchester tomorrow.

Colin Irish, who rejected the chance of an England recall, hit 30 points to help Worthing Bears take over the league leadership with a 108-81 win over Cheshire Jets.

Kurt Samuels, the England newcomer, went scoreless for Derby Bucks as Oldham Celts upset them 89-88.

ICE HOCKEY

Barrel of goals by Cooper as Devils take the lead

CARDIFF Devils took over the leadership of the Heineken League premier division following weekend victories over Fife Flyers, the former leaders, and Humber-side Seabawks (Norman de Mesquita writes). Ian Cooper led the way for the Devils with nine goals in the two games, and at Hull on Sunday all nine goals were scored by British players.

Watching Bracknell Bees lose at home to Whitley Warriors on Saturday, it was difficult to see how the Bees had been doing so well and the Warriors so badly. Whitley were good value for their 7-3

win and the shortcomings of the Bracknell defence were repeatedly exposed by accurate passing.

Murrayfield Racers, with Tony Hand in excellent form, are beginning to climb the table and their win over Durham Wasps was their first in eight attempts.

There were two notable doubles in the first division, by Beeston Beavers, who maintained their 100 per cent record with two wins over Sheffield Steelers, and Lee Valley Lions, who beat Slough Jets home and away.

Results, page 36

OLYMPIC GAMES

Raia in line for leading role

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ACAPULCO, MEXICO

DON Anthony, the director of education for the British Olympic Association, is an optimist. He prefers studying the horizon of the Olympic movement and its motivations rather than, as some, gazing at the gutter. "I think this has been the most significant meeting since the congress at Baden-Baden in 1981," Anthony reflected at the conclusion of the eighth general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (Anoc).

Coming from volleyball, Anthony is not from a conspicuous British sport, yet is one of these working for the preservation of ideals. This past week he has seen the ideal still tenaciously clinging to the framework of contemporary change. "The National Olympic Committees make the Games," he said, "and they have been heard and noticed."

Within the battle for protecting the interests of the weak, another contest has been unobtrusively under way. The runners may not be officially declared, but nobody is unaware of the negotiations to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). If he decides to stand for another four-year term next year — as he has indicated — the moment will arrive in 1997.

There are four contenders, with a fifth tailing the pack. Sadly, many would say, Keba M'Baye, of Senegal, one of the IOC's eminent intellects, will be of retirement age by 1997. For him, it could only have been a possibility next year.

The four are Richard Pound (Canada), Kevan Gosper (Australia), Dr. Un Yong Kim (South Korea) and Mario Vazquez Raia (Mexico), with Dr. Jacques Rogge (Europe) needing time to consolidate his experience. In the past month, with the respective conferences of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations (Gaif) in Monte Carlo, chaired by Kim, and Anoc, chaired by Raia, there have been subtle shifts in credibility.

Since the Games in Seoul, Pound and Gosper, executive board members and former Olympians, have been prominent figures: Pound with his shrewd grasp of commercial development; Gosper with his conviction on policy issues. Pound's problem was that he, discomfortingly, tended publicly to say what others were thinking; Gosper that, coming from down under, he lacked a natural power base.

The shadow figures in the wings were Kim and, elected in 1990, Raia. Kim, now on the executive board, created the successful Games of 1988, and he has a vast network of contacts through Gaif, a power base second only to Raia's.

Europeans would say last week's assembly here was unsatisfactory, that Rogge did not serve their interests in the debate on competitor quotas; and that Raia allowed the assembly to ramble. Asia and Africa would disagree: 64 nations were given the floor.

"I don't close doors," Raia said. "The Olympic movement has three urgent problems. Marketing, gigantism and professionalism. These three phenomena we need to contain at the 1994 congress in Paris."

Raia's handicap, as candidate, up to now, is lack of fluency in French or English and a resentment by the Old World for being the benefactor of Anoc, established with his million-dollar donation. To the New World, he is a seaman. The resistance to him in Europe might strengthen the platform of Gosper, who showed characteristic conviction last week against the precipitate inclusion of golf.

This clandestine battle will run and run.

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BBC1

- 6.00 **Ceebees** (10774) 6.30 **Breakfast News** (5628265)
9.05 **Kluge** Robert Kluge-Silk chairs a studio discussion (5644671) 9.45
Ross King. Game show (8) (5694213)
10.00 **News** regional news and weather (7683720) 10.05 **Playdays** For
the very young (8) (5268222)
10.30 **Good Morning** with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine
show presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (8) (42634720)
12.15 **Pebble Mill** Judi Spiers is joined by Anthony Newley and Lynda La
Plante (8) (4062222) 12.55 **Regional News** and weather
(7683658)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. (Ceebees) Weather (56590)
1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceebees) (42654720) 1.50 **Golfing for Gold**.
General knowledge quiz game with Anthony Newley. The
question-master is the affable John Kelly (8) (42634720)
2.15 **Film: Village of the Damned** (1950) b/w starring George Sanders
and Barbara Shelley. First-rate adaptation of John Wyndham's
science fiction thriller about 12 children born simultaneously in a
sleepy English village, all with blond hair, superior intelligence and
telekinetic powers. Their ultimate aim is world domination. Directed
by Wolf Filia (2607478)
3.30 **Cartoon Double Bill** (1837300) 3.50 **Harlem Scum**. Picture
book stories (8) (1755334) 4.00 **Funnybones** (8) (9402958) 4.10
3.50 **Neighbours** (Ceebees) (42654720) 4.30 **The**
Chippmunks (8) (5262277) 4.35 **Hardback**. Innovative approaches
to better picture making. (Ceebees) (8) (8732584)
5.00 **Newsround** (8574107) 5.10 **Byker Grove**. Children's drama serial
set in a North East youth centre. (Ceebees) (2426519)
5.35 **Neighbours** (8) (Ceebees) (42654720) 5.55 **Inside Out**.
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Laurie Mayer. (Ceebees)
Weather (107)



Girls' night out: Susan Tully and Letitia Dean (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **EastEnders**. (Ceebees) (8) (571)
8.00 **Cliff Smith**. The revolution is postponed when the celebrated
tooting anarchist attends an audition to realise his ambition to be a
pop star. Starring Robert Lindsay (8) (Ceebees) (8213)
8.30 **A Question of Sport** presented by David Coleman. Joining Bill
Beaumont and Ian Botham this week are Gordon Strachan, Allison
Fisher, Mark Rose and Jonathan Davies. (Ceebees) (8) (8720)
9.00 **News** O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (Ceebees) Regional news
and weather (8720)
9.30 **Kinsey**. Drama series starring Leigh Lawson as a mercurial
Midlands lawyer (771923). Wales: West in Week Out 10.00 **Kinsey**
10.25 **Omibus**. Leona Carrington and the House of Fear.
© CHOICE: This week Omibus is drawn into the strange world of
surrealist artist and writer Leona Carrington. Perhaps in sympathy
with his subject, the film is dreamily incoherent at times, at first
making little allowance for anyone who might not have heard of
Carrington. Yet when her life story does begin to unfold, it is
fascinating. An English debutante who was a rebel at school, she
abruptly left for Paris where she joined the Surrealists and fell in love
with Max Ernst. But the second world war saw her in a mental
asylum in Spain. When she recovered from her breakdown she
travelled to Mexico where she is interviewed for this programme. At
last she is still contentedly independent and full of wit, her paintings
are becoming, if anything, more interesting. (Ceebees) (46010)
Northern Ireland: Go For It 10.55 **Country Times**. Wales: 10.55
Omibus
11.15 **Film: The Haunting** (1963) b/w starring Julie Harris, Claire Bloom
and Richard Johnson. Chilling ghost story about a disparate group
of individuals investigating the mystery surrounding a haunted New
England house. Directed by Robert Wise. (Ceebees) (243478)
Northern Ireland: 11.20 **Omibus** 12.10-2.00 **Film: The Haunting**.
Wales: 11.45 **Film: The Haunting** 1.30 **News** and weather
1.05am **Weather** (7683658). Ends at 1.10
2.15 **BBC Select: Executive Business Club** (262091). Ends 2.45 3.15
Accountancy TV. Ends at 4.15

BBC2

- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (4554507) 8.15 **Westminster** (8908852)
9.00 **The Travel Show** UK Mini Guides. What's new and nearby
Loch Ness have to offer the visitor (8) (8691213)
9.05 **Daytime On Two**. Educational programmes
2.00 **News** and weather followed by You and Me (8) (5291858) 2.15
Getting Through. The story of Sybil Phoenix, MBE, a Methodist lay
preacher, originally from Guyana, who has fostered more than 200
children and now runs a centre in London for homeless teenagers
(8) (7047287) 2.30 **See Hear** Magazine series for the hearing
impaired (8) (720)
3.00 **News** and weather (9440010) followed by Westminster Live
presented by John Cole and Ian MacWhirter (7007403) 3.50 **News**.
regional news and weather (1753126)
4.00 **Catchword**. Game show for wordsmiths, hosted by Paul Cota (8)
(300)
4.30 **Balanced Headlines**. Topical daily talk show, today introduced
by John Diamond (594)
5.00 **Play Snooker**. Dennis Taylor with the fourth of his six
masterclasses (8) (1671)
5.30 **Film 82 with Barry Norman**. Includes reviews of *Peter's Friends*
and *Sneakers* (8) (836)
6.00 **Film: The Far Country** (1954) starring James Stewart. Western
drama about a cattleman from Wyoming who takes his herd to the
Alaskan gold fields where a crooked lawman steals them and kills
his best friend. Directed by Anthony Mann (83945213)
7.35 **Rugby Union**. Live coverage from Eland Road, Leeds, of the
second half of the game between the North and the South Africans.
The commentators are Nigel Stammers-Smith and Paul Actford (8)
(889720)
8.30 **Food and Drink**. Includes a report on the standard of lemons in
pubs and a look at a Russian couple visiting a British supermarket
for the first time. (Ceebees) (8) (2590)
9.00 **Quantum Leap**. Science fiction drama series starring Scott Bakula
as a time-travelled scientist. In this episode back in 1965 Los
Angeles as a black medical student dating the white daughter of a
police captain. (Ceebees) (8) (92518)



A prosperous business: Sir John Harvey-Jones (8.45pm)

- 9.45 **Troubleshotter 2**.
© CHOICE: Sir John Harvey-Jones begins a new troubleshooting
series by revisiting the firms he met in the original programme
1990. Looking back it seems as if his sternest advice was always
given over a glass of something while sitting outside in the sun. In
any case he seems to have made no enemies, being greeted now as
a long lost friend. Despite receiving the odd nasty shock such as
seeing his car's factory raised to the ground, Harvey-Jones finds
most of the firms doing well; pottery manufacturers Churchill, for
example, have quadrupled their profits since taking his advice.
Others such as the Copella apple juice company persist in going
their own way, taking risks which make him scream with hysterical
laughter. (Ceebees) (883120)
10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Jeremy Paxman (801313)
11.15 **The Late Show**. Arts and media magazine (8) (750590)
11.55 **Weather** (742838)
12.00 **Behind the Headlines**. A repeat of the programme shown at 4.30
(51411)
12.30am **Live at Brecon**. Jazz from the Cuban band, Irakere (8)
(6617053). Ends at 1.20

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ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** (5092838)
9.25 **Kymantia**. Music game show hosted by Alistair Dival (4107010)
9.55 **Thames News** (5179749)
10.00 **The Time... The Place...** Topical discussion programme
(8882278)
10.35 **This Morning**. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and
Julia Farringham. Today's edition includes another episode from the
topical soap *Tuesdays and Thursdays*, fashion and beauty tips,
consumer affairs and phone-in family finance advice. With national
and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55
followed by national weather (9037519)
12.10 **Playbox**. Entertaining early-evening series (8) (2378107)
12.30 **Lunchtime News** (Oracle) Weather (3229516) 1.05 **Thames**
News (5880471)
1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama serial. (Oracle) (762519)
1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama set in the Australian
outback (8) (754593)
2.15 **Heirloom**. David Byr is joined by picture expert David Mason
(873871) 2.45 **Families**. Soap linking the North of England with
Australia (8) (557755)
3.10 **ITN News headlines** (9531316) 3.15 **Thames News headlines**
(9530887) 3.20 **The Young Doctors**. Drama serial set in an
Australian city hospital (8744128)
3.50 **Fragside Rook**. Puppet adventure (8) (4835107) 4.05 **The Raggy**
Dolls (8) (932497) 4.15 **Take Off with T-Bag** starring Georgia
Hale and Gemma Craven (4500010) 4.40 **Children's Ward**. Drama
serial set in a large hospital (894774)
5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz for teenagers. Presented
by Bob Holness (8131584)
5.40 **Early Evening News**. (Oracle) Weather (818855)
5.55 **Thames Help** (8) (527872)
6.00 **Home and Away** (8) (Oracle) (403)
6.30 **Thames News** (855)

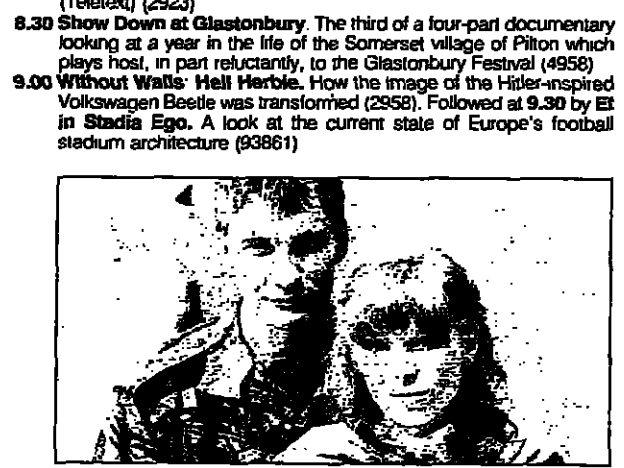


Eye to eye contact: Brian Deacon and Claire King (7.00pm)

- 7.00 **Emmerdale**. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
(1861)
7.30 **The Home Show**. Advice on home improvements presented by
John Coggan, Susan Smith and Adam Caplin (8) (889)
8.00 **The Bill**. Occupational Hazard. WDC Martine tries to comfort
Joanna Somers when the police have to let her vicious former
boyfriend free on a technicality, and a new arrival from Hendon
Police College is dropped in at the deep end. (Oracle) (4381)
8.30 **The Upper Hand**. Comedy series about a footballer turned
housekeeper and his relationship with his businesswoman boss.
Starring Joe McGann, Diana Weston and Honor Blackman (8)
(5316)
9.00 **Boon**. The Midlands private detective has the task of keeping a
football pool winner on the straight and narrow. Starring Michael
Elphick and David Daker. (Oracle) (8) (5789)
10.00 **News at Ten**. (Oracle) Weather (84671) 10.30 **Thames News**
(8561)
10.40 **The Evening Standard Drama Awards 1992** introduced by Ned
Sherrin from the Savoy Hotel in London (722942)
11.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H**. Drama serial set in an Australian women's
detention centre (554331)
12.30am **Video View**. The latest releases reviewed (89701)
1.30 **The Equalizer**. McCall unearths a prostitution and blackmail racket
when helping a newspaper reporter investigate his daughter's
death. Starring Edward Woodward (74188)
2.30 **Donahue**. Phil Donahue meets women who chase men and men
who need to be chased (5552688)
3.20 **60 Minutes**. American news magazine (3517850)
4.10 **The Twilight Zone: Room 2426**. A tale of the supernatural, starring
Dean Stockwell and Brent Carter (8) (8445018)
4.40 **Short Story Theatre**. That's My Name, Don't Wear It Out. A
young girl's boyfriend is a baseball player. A headstrong woman
decides it is time to get married (2448458)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** (56966) Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Cartoons** (81774) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (76213)
8.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show (8) (61720)
8.30 **Schools** (522671)
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**. With Anne Pooking (81584)
12.30 **Sesame Street**. The guest is actress Madeleine Kahn (88836)
1.30 **Take 5**. Young people's entertainment (16768)
2.00 **Film: Rhapsody** (1951) b/w starring Ray Milland. Comedy about a
millionaire who leaves his fortune and the baseball team he owns to
a ginger tomcat. Directed by Arthur Lubin (257107)
3.40 **The Mermaid and the Beechamber**. Jean-François Laguionie's
animation of an ancient legend about impossible love (1917590)
4.00 **Family Pride**. Drama serial about a Midlands-based Assa family
(8) (765) 4.30 **Fifteen To One**. General knowledge quiz (8) (852)
5.00 **Crawshaw Paints Oils**. Alwyn Crawshaw moves to Lymeport in
the West Country and introduces the different brushes used in
painting with oils (3038)
5.30 **If Wishes Were Horses**. Series following the fortunes of a group of
mixed ability children learning to ride a horse (8) (132)
6.00 **Remote Control**. Comedy quiz show. (Teletext) (8) (395)
6.30 **Roseanne**. Wiscracking blue-collar comedy starring Roseanne
Arnold and John Goodman (8) (Teletext) (497)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) Weather (321803)
7.50 **Comment**. Veronica Beechey argues against taxing and cutting
invalidity benefit (367045)
8.00 **People First: The Children of Leroc**.
© CHOICE: Two and a half years ago the film *Island of Outcasts*
revealed the terrible conditions inside a mental hospital on the
Greek island of Leroc. Now this distressing programme, part of a
series dealing with disability, returns to the hell hole, this time
concentrating on the children's asylum. Thankfully the EC and the
Greek government have been funding a reform programme and a
group of Greek doctors have set up a model ward which is
transforming the lives of some of the children. A few inmates have
even been fostered by families — "I am reborn," says one. Yet other
wards reveal the same old sights of patients chained to their beds,
and the asylum still lacks basic sanitary facilities. With no long-term
funding plans established, the future looks horribly uncertain.
(Teletext) (222)
8.30 **Show Down at Glastonbury**. The third of a four-part documentary
looking at a year in the life of the Somerset village of Pilton which
plays host, in part reluctantly, to the Glastonbury Festival (4958)
9.00 **Without Walls: Hell Herbie**. How the image of the Hitler-inspired
Volkswagen Beetle was transformed (2598). Followed at 9.30 by *Et*
in *Stadium*. A look at the current state of Europe's football
stadium architecture (83861)



The home front: David Thewlis and Rudi Davies (10.00pm)

- 10.00 **Film: Resurrected** (1989).
© CHOICE: This is the first showing on network television of Paul
Greengrass's raw, angry film analysing our irrational emotions
during wartime. David Thewlis puts in a heartrending central
performance as Kevin, a young soldier in the Falklands war who
gets missing, is given full military honours in a memorial service
and then, to the embarrassment of his Lancashire wife, is
back claiming amnesia. On returning to the army, amid fabric
allegations that he was a deserter, he is subjected to a vicious
improvised "court-martial" by his fellow soldiers. Greengrass
conceived the idea while working on a *World in Action* investigation
into army brutality, and the film has a documentary feel to it. The
supporting players, including Tom Bell and Rita Tushingham, are
excellent. (Teletext) (677519)
11.40 **Bress**. Episode one of a repeat of the hilarious comedy spoof
starring Timothy West as a despotic munitions factory owner. With
Caroline Blakiston as his gin-soaked wife (8) (182655)
12.15am **Daughters of the Country**. The first of a four-part series of
dramas from Canada tracing the troubled history of generations of
immigrants (2255545)
1.20 **Film: The Brass Monks** (1948) b/w. Comedy thriller starring
Carroll Lewis and Carole Landis. Directed by Thornton Freeland
(6032343). Ends at 2.50

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 **Anglia**
News (563129) 7.30-8.00 **Help** (858)
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As London except: 6.25pm-6.50 **Sons and**
Daughters (8) (563129) 7.30-8.00 **Help**
(858) 8.15-8.30 **Lookaround** (403)
8.30-9.00 **Suburban** (858) 9.00-9.30 **Help**
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BOXING 36

PRESENCE OF LEWIS
LOOMS LARGE OVER
HOLYFIELD'S DEFENCE

SPORT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 1992

RACING 37

REFLECTIONS ON
THE STARS OF
THE FLAT SEASON

Krabbe's four-year suspension could be reduced



Krabbe: harsh ban

By JOHN GOODBODY

KATRIN Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, and two fellow-German athletes could have their four-year suspension from international competition reduced next week. Their case is to be re-examined because of the controversy over the status of clenbuterol, the drug also taken by the two British weightlifters who were sent home from the Olympic Games in Barcelona and later exonerated.

Lutz Nebenthal, the German athletics federation (DLV) spokesman, said yesterday that the exoneration of the two British weightlifters, Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies, and the problems of getting the German civil courts to accept a four-year ban, had increased the chances of Krabbe, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr getting shorter suspensions. The DLV will meet in Dierhagen on November 21 to decide the issue. Nebenthal would admit only to "a possibility of the ban being cut", but a German athletics source, who did not want to be identified, said: "We could be talking of a suspension of one to two years."

The three athletes have admitted taking the substance, a beta-2 agonist, which is a stimulant — and therefore banned in competition — and has been shown to help develop muscle mass in animals. However, it is debatable whether at the time that the three athletes took the drug in July, it was banned in training as an anabolic agent by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The competitors say that they took clenbuterol, which is licensed in Germany for the treatment of asthma, as a medication. "The classification of the drug is a factor in the Krabbe discussion," Nebenthal said. "The case of the British weightlifters has made it an issue." He added that the DLV has been advised by legal experts that a German civil court would see a four-year suspension as too harsh, especially in view of the confusion over the drug. The lawyers to the three Germans has been fighting to clear their names and may refuse a compromise.

The final say on whether the athletes will be able to compete internationally will rest with the world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). It was the IAAF's arbitration panel, which on June 28 overturned bans on Krabbe, Breuer and Silke Möller, another former East German competitor. The athletes had been banned for allegedly manipulating tests after they had supplied identical urine. However, the DLV was found to have no legal statute permitting out-of-competition tests. Krabbe, who said that the fight to clear her name had prevented her from competing in the Olympics, Breuer and Derr gave urine samples during training in Germany in July. They were found to contain clenbuterol in tests

carried out at the Cologne laboratory of Professor Manfred Donike, a leading expert on drugs analysis. "On July 31, Donike sent faxes from Barcelona, where he was officiating at the Olympic Games, stating that nine tests on unidentified competitors had been found positive for clenbuterol and that the drug came under the class of anabolic steroids, because they were chemically and pharmacologically related to these compounds. Donike said that it was not until four days later that he knew the identity of any of the competitors who had tested positive."

However, Donike was at the meeting of the IOC medical commission in Barcelona on July 31, when clenbuterol was "confirmed" as a stimulant in competition and related to androgenic anabolic steroids. It was therefore also proscribed in training. Professor Arnold Becken, a member of the commission for 25 years, was unable to attend that meeting. He has publicly dissociated himself from the decision taken by the commission then and has campaigned for no action to be taken against competitors who have taken clenbuterol in training before July 31.

Wilkinson remains upbeat after setbacks

Perryman prepares to increase Leeds misery

By LOUISE TAYLOR

STEVE Perryman, the Watford manager, collected two League Cup winners' medals as a Tottenham Hotspur player in the 1970s and he will be hoping to recapture the glory days tonight by reaching the fourth round of the competition with a victory over Leeds United.

Leeds, who visit Vicarage Road in what is now known as the Coca-Cola Cup, may be league champions but they have yet to win away this season and are vulnerable after their departure from the European Cup last Wednesday. They lost 4-0 to Manchester City in a Premier League fixture on Saturday.

Perryman yesterday said: "If Leeds have another bad night and we are on our game I would have to fancy our chances. I hope they are still hurting. But I like Leeds, they have tremendous players and great commitment. People

should not be too quick to knock them because they will see this match against us as the ideal chance to get their confidence back and keep another route to Europe next season open."

John Lukic, David Batty and Tony Dorigo all face late fitness tests for Leeds, while Howard Wilkinson, their manager, must decide whether to recall Lee Chapman, relegated to substitute on Saturday, in attack.

Wilkinson, whose defence has been much criticised, said: "We would not have won the title last season without being sound at the back and although it is a cause for concern, I feel that between now and Christmas it is a problem we will resolve and we will get back on course."

"We have had a few days of mourning after the European Cup defeat, but this next match gives us another route

back into Europe and we know how important it is to stay on it."

Watford's new signings, Ken Charlery and Roger Willis, are both cup-tied but Perryman will recall Paul Furlong, the first division side's leading scorer who has registered 11 goals since a move from Coventry. The prize for winning this delayed tie — it was postponed due to Leeds' European involvement — is a trip to Blackburn Rovers.

After winning for the first time on a Saturday this season at Nottingham Forest last weekend, Everton hope to record two successive victories by putting Wimbledon out of the Coca-Cola Cup tonight.

The teams meet in a third-round replay at Selhurst Park, necessitated by a dire goalless draw at Goodison Park. Howard Kendall, the Everton manager — who could use a good cup run to deflect mounting criticism — knows that victory tonight will book a much-needed home contest with Chelsea.

"In the gloomy days of 1983, before our subsequent domestic and European success, I said that if we went out of the League Cup and were in the bottom sixth of the league it would be a crisis and I feel the same today," he said yesterday.

Everton are sixth from the foot of the Premier League but

were boosted by Ian Snodin on Saturday. Playing his second game in two injury-troubled years, Snodin helped undo Forest. Kendall said: "Ian was superb, he made all the difference."

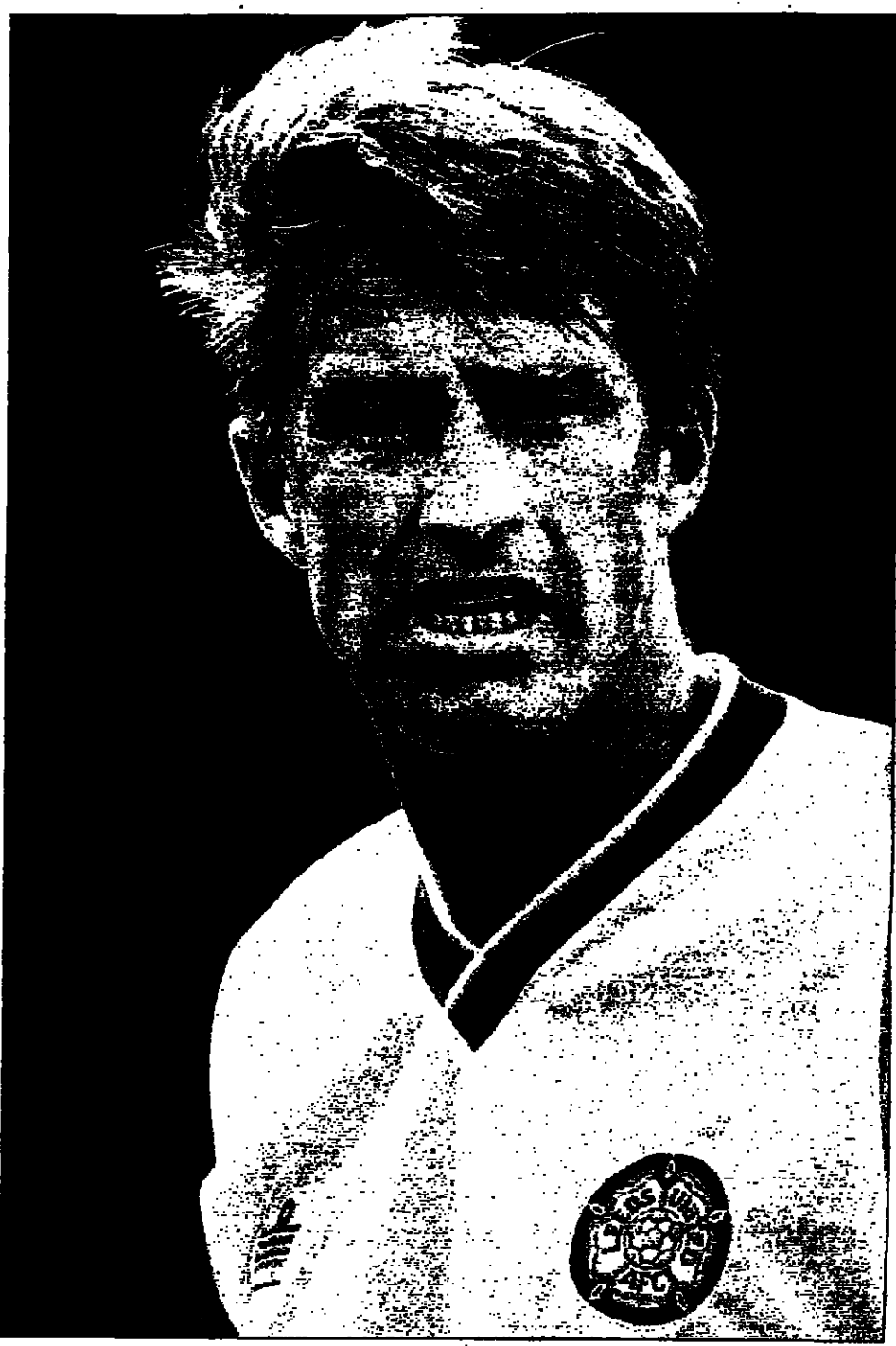
Wimbledon believe that John Fashanu can be the difference between victory and defeat for them and they will give the influential centre forward a late fitness test.

Stan Flashman, the Barnet chairman, was yesterday accused of treachery by the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs. During a radio interview on Saturday, Flashman said: "The supporters do not matter as far as I'm concerned. They pay their entrance fee and I don't care whether they come to Barnet or not. We play good football whether they are there or not."

Monica Harland, of the federation, said: "Professional football can ill-afford such treachery at a time of recession when supporters are struggling to finance their loyalty."

West Ham United yesterday signed Alex Bumbury, 25, a Canadian international striker, for £200,000, subject to a work permit. Bumbury played for Canada at the weekend in a 3-2 home defeat in a World Cup qualifier against El Salvador.

Selective Rotherham, page 38
Dowie dropped, page 38



Front-runner: Chapman could come back into Leeds United's forward line tonight

Davies hit by groin injury

By CHRISTOPHER IRVING

JONATHAN Davies, the Wales full back and Wales captain, has withdrawn from the rugby league international against England at Swansea on November 27 and in France next month because he is to undergo a groin operation tomorrow that will keep him on the sidelines until the new year.

The pelvic bone problem was originally diagnosed in April when Davies was forced to miss the Great Britain tour to Australia. Phil Larder, the Wales coach, was highly critical yesterday of the decision not to operate at the time and the player's televised display of bungee jumping in Australia in the summer, when he should have been resting.

"It was foolhardy of Jonathan," Larder said. "Diving from a great height on a piece of elastic was not the right medicine. He's lost some speed this season and that's obviously due to the groin problem."

After overwhelming first division Wakefield Trinity in the first round of the Regal Trophy, London Crusaders were drawn yesterday away to Leigh in the next round.

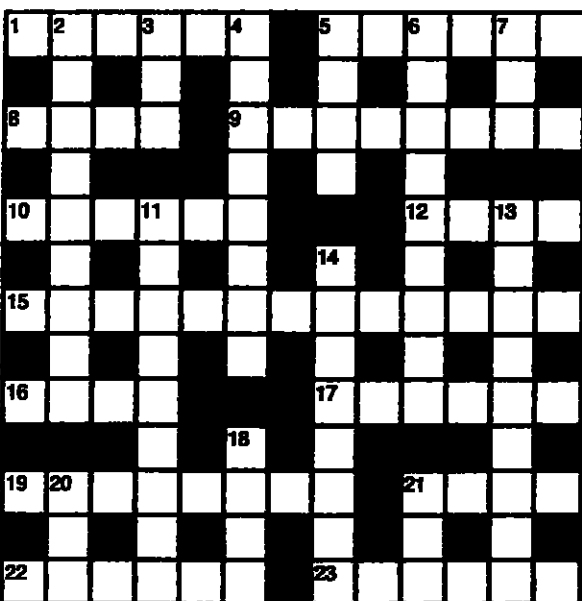
Their expectations of advancement beyond the second round of a big competition for the first time are high. London, who were given a 20-point start on some handicap coupons, defeated Wakefield 30-0 on Sunday, watched by fewer than 500 people at the Crystal Palace national sports stadium. Times have never been harder at the game's southern outpost, but the draw provided further stimulus to the second division club after 12 thin years.

Leigh are the whipping boys of the first division, without a league win so far, although whether the tie can proceed at Hilton Park remains uncertain.

The club was served with a writ last week to leave the ground, but a hearing at the High Court in Manchester planned for today has been adjourned.

SECOND-ROUND DRAW: Crusaders v Cardiff; Featherston Rovers v St Helens; Leigh v London Crusaders; Hull v Halifax; Hull KR v Wigan; Huddersfield v Wakefield; Wakefield v Bradford; Northampton v Rochdale Hornets; Middlesbrough v Doncaster.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2941



- ACROSS
- 1 Climbed (6)
 - 5 Influence (6)
 - 8 Discover (4)
 - 9 Estover (8)
 - 10 Two-pint measures (6)
 - 12 Pulpy mass (9)
 - 15 Exercise treatment (13)
 - 16 Transfer (4)
 - 17 For a brief period (6)
 - 19 Contiguous (8)
 - 21 Ammonium nitrate/TNT (8)
 - 23 Lion's den hero (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Tiny Mexican dog (9)
 - 3 Guided (3)
 - 4 Tennis soft return (8)
 - 5 Affectedly artistic (4)
 - 6 Forcibly drive (9)
 - 7 Film cylinder (3)
 - 11 Impervious (9)
 - 13 Burial vault (9)
 - 14 Bailed (8)
 - 15 Actual (4)
 - 20 Faint (3)
 - 21 Female bird (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2940

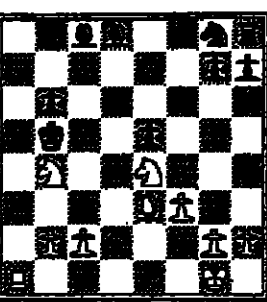
ACROSS: 1 Square bashing 8 Exot 9 Rub down 10 Ava 11 Light 12 Barul 14 Notary 16 Diction 20 Spectra 23 Cabin 24 Pro 25 Logbook 26 Mass 27 Stepping stone

DOWN: 1 Smelling salts 2 Uplight 3 Refuse 4 Berate 5 Salvo 6 In off 7 Gentlemanlike 13 RUC 15 ABC 17 Income 18 Tobacco 19 Napkin 21 Eagle 22 Troop

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation from the game Fischer-Spassky, Sveti Stefan (Game 9) 1992. Black had seen what was coming here and so had already resigned the game. How would Fischer, white to play, have finished matters off if his opponent had proved more stubborn?



Solution below.

White's black king is lured into a mating net with 1 Nc3. Black's king has various ways to win such as 2...

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Alkon Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

South Africa select Coloured player for Test



Henry: accurate

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN VERWOERDURG

OMAR Henry, the Cape Coloured all-rounder, will be the first non-white cricketer to represent South Africa in a Test match. Henry has been selected for the first Test match with India at Durban on Friday.

Jimmy Cook, who scored so many runs during three years with Somerset, has also been chosen. Others awarded their first Test caps are Brett Schultz, who wrecked the Indian first innings for the President's XI in the four-day match which ended with a

washout here yesterday; Brian McMillan, the all-rounder, once on Warwickshire's staff; and Jonty Rhodes, whose spectacular fielding was a feature of the World Cup.

Henry, 40, who plays for Scotland, has taken wickets more consistently this season than any other slow bowler. His unwavering accuracy also helped him to withstand a challenge from Clive Elsten for the left-arm spinner's berth.

Henry will displace Geoff Chubb as South Africa's oldest Test player on debut, but his athleticism in the field belies his age. Chubb was 40 years

and 56 days when he played against England at Trent Bridge in 1951, while Henry is 41 on January 23.

Henry has played for South Africa in one-day international Tests in 1986-7 against an unsanctioned Australian side. His choice is thoroughly deserved and any question of tokenism can be discounted.

Cook, 39, first played first-class cricket in 1972-3, and after his rejection for the World Cup and for South Africa's visit to West Indies last April he must have despaired of ever playing Test cricket. Cook scored a hundred for

Transvaal this weekend and his selection became inevitable when Kepler Wessels made it known he preferred the No. 3 position to opening.

Schultz, 22, joins Allan Donald and Meyrick Pringle in a three-pronged pace attack, though Donald must pass a fitness test on injured stomach muscles on Thursday. Steven Jack will come in if Donald cannot play.

TEAM: K C Wessels (captain), P N Hosten (vice-captain), A C Hudson, S J Cook, J N Rhodes, B F Smith & (uncoloured), N J Snyman (uncoloured), W P C Weston (Worcestershire), M G N Winkler (Gauteng), J R Ailing (Gauteng), M B Broadhurst (Gauteng), G Chapman (Lancashire), A P Joubert (Kord), P J Maritz (Lancashire), M J McCague (Kord), R D B Coetz (Gauteng), R P Davis (Kord), N M Kanderick (Gauteng), S D Ugal (Transvaal), P A Wren (Lancashire), R J Papp (Worcestershire), R J Phillips (Lancashire).

Fletcher shifts focus back to skills

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

KEITH Fletcher, the new England cricket manager, starts work in earnest today, quietly intent on scorning the popular theory that the modern cricketer is a product of a regime that worships fitness and undervalues skill and flair.

This may not sit comfortably with the venue for Fletcher's managerial debut, not Lord's but Lillshall, nor with the fact that, for the next six weeks, the England party to tour India and Sri Lanka is to be monitored by the human-performance experts employed for their ability to improve the workrate of footballers.

Fletcher, however, arrived in the Shropshire countryside yesterday with his priorities firmly decided. "More than three-quarters of the time we spend at Lillshall will be devoted to cricket skills," he said yesterday. "I don't expect to concentrate on physical fitness for more than an hour each day."

This, perhaps, was the first indication of how different things may be under the mild-mannered Essex guru, after six years of a more regimented approach from Mickey Stewart. It is no coincidence that Stewart was once a useful footballer. Fletcher prefers to go fishing.

The switch in emphasis will be subtle, however. Fletcher still works in close liaison with Stewart, now director of coaching and development, and is not yet

prepared to concede he has changed things. But his portrait of life at Lillshall, where England's players will spend two days a week until Christmas, is indicative.

It is the longest an England party has spent together before a tour. Fletcher explains: "Getting the unit together is so much more beneficial than having groups of players training in centres around the country. Spending nights at Lillshall is also useful. Coaching does not begin and end in the nets. In the bar during the evenings, players will naturally discuss cricket, relating their technical problems and helping each other put them right. It doesn't mean everyone has to get drunk."

Of course not, but the Essex team of the Seventies and Eighties was known to like a drink. It was also known for winning trophies, masterminded by the under-rated Fletcher, who has deceived many an opponent with the bumbling manner which is only partly genuine.

The genuine part of him was at it again yesterday as he vainly cast around for the name of a bowler he had wanted to add to the net strength at Lillshall. It turned out to be Richard Ellison. But while Fletcher may struggle with names, he knows exactly who and what he wants and his ideas are being put into action

with the backing of sponsors Whittingdale, who will this year subsidise England's preparations to the tune of £265,000. Fletcher will fly to South Africa later this month on a spying mission — quite a novelty in cricket, watching India play their Test match in Johannesburg.

Another innovation is that England will have a bowling coach for the middle month of the winter tour. Geoff Arnold, of Surrey, takes the job. Arnold will be one of five coaches employed at Lillshall. A notable absentee will be Geoffrey Boycott, a favourite adviser of Graham Gooch but not universally welcomed by the England players. "He is not being used," Fletcher said bluntly.

Six county players who have been chosen to attend nets are Jon Ayling, Tim Munton, Chris Penn, Richard Davis, Andy Roberts and Peter Martin. Of these, Ayling, Davis and Martin were named yesterday in an England fringe squad of 21, who have been identified as potential Test players.

PRINCIPAL SQUAD: A D Brown (Surrey), J P Crawley (Lancashire), N V Knight (Essex), M B Lowe (Northamptonshire), B F Smith & (uncoloured), N J Snyman (uncoloured), W P C Weston (Worcestershire), M G N Winkler (Gauteng), J R Ailing (Gauteng), M B Broadhurst (Gauteng), G Chapman (Lancashire), A P Joubert (Kord), P J Maritz (Lancashire), M J McCague (Kord), R D B Coetz (Gauteng), R P Davis (Kord), N M Kanderick (Gauteng), S D Ugal (Transvaal), P A Wren (Lancashire), R J Papp (Worcestershire), R J Phillips (Lancashire).

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